

Hafa Adai!

MHS to buy new musical instruments for next school year. **PAGE 2**
Court allows man in assault case to go to work on Pagan. **PAGE 3**

75¢

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WITH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS' WORTH OF PROJECTS IN PIPELINE



'Getting more construction workers not a want but a need'

Torres pins hope on Kilili to boost number of foreign construction workers



Torres

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

"It's not a want; it's a need."
That's how Gov. Ralph DLG Torres describes the CNMI's dire need for more construction workers, citing the several million dollars' worth of projects that are in

File photo shows construction workers of Junson Construction Mongolia under going a project briefing at the construction site inside the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino in Garapan. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

the pipeline in the CNMI.
This is where Torres hopes Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) can come in—by working in the U.S. Congress to increase the number of foreign construction workers that will be allowed into the CNMI.

See **WORKERS** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 10, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	20,016
Fully Vaccinated:	17,937
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,340
Fully Vaccinated:	2,438
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	65

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,023	20	8,043
Recovered	7,789	25	7,814
Active	70	20	90
Deaths	138	1	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	156,307		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	170	0	170
Traced via Travel Screening	134	0	124
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	54		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

First group of 'tourists' will be Korea govt execs, media

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

The first group of "tourists" that will be allowed into the CNMI will be South Korean media and government officials who will arrive in the CNMI on June 15. The group totals 50 passengers, who will be staying in the CNMI for four to seven days.

It is being hoped this group's arrival will ultimately help with the resumption of the tourism industry on the islands, said Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez.

Speaking at the media briefing last Friday, Villagomez announced that they continue to work on a "bubble corridor." See **TOURISTS** on **Page 4**

Airport Road project OK'd to proceed

» **Jan. 4, 2022, is expected completion date**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The official notice to proceed with the repavement of Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road, also known as Route 35, and Airport Road was communicated to the contractor yesterday, according

to Public Works Secretary James A. Ada.



Ada

Ada congratulated Hawaiian Rock Products and its general manager, David L. Bush, in a letter last Friday on being awarded with the Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road Improvement project. See **AIRPORT** on **Page 4**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that if Gov. Ralph DLG Torres exercises his authority over child tax credit payments, qualifying families can receive \$300 a month per child for children ages 0-5 and \$250 a month per



Sablan

» **Delegate urges families with children to file their taxes by May 17 to ensure eligibility for advanced monthly child tax payments**

child for children ages 6-17 as early as this summer and until the end of the year.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan See **KILILI** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Last Shot Bar along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa opened last week, borne out of a dream.

PAGE 11



NATION

A gunman opens fire at a birthday party, slaying six adults before killing himself.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Glenn Close makes one thing clear: she is not a loser, despite zero wins after 8 Oscar nominations.

PAGE 15



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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File photo shows Marianas High School music teacher Gina Aguilar conducting the MHS Concert Band last week.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Local

MHS to buy new musical instruments for next school year

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Marianas High School will be committing resources to further expand and support its music program by obtaining more instruments for its students by the start of the next school year, according to principal Jonathan Aguon.

"Expanding the music program at MHS is one of the goals that we have in place, and getting new instruments is a part of that. We'd like to see the music program expand because we're currently the only Saipan high school within [the Public School System that] has a music program," said Aguon.

Right now, MHS has three alto saxophones, one tenor saxophone, one clarinet, one flute, one bass clarinet, five trombones, one French horn, two tubas, and two trumpets—all of which the school purchased more than six years ago and have been passed

from student to student over the years. While most of the high school's concert band members have their own instruments, the need for more and new instruments is still felt by those currently using the old instruments and those who are unable to pursue being part of the band.

MHS music teacher Gina Aguilar is thankful for the MHS administration's continued advocacy for the music program and has high praise for her young musicians. "I'm just so thankful my principal and vice principals [Romolo] Orsini and Melanie [Rdiall] are very supportive of me," said Aguilar. "The students make it happen, I just plant the seeds. I'm just so amazed how they learn so fast in such a short time. ... Their hearts are overflowing with talent."

Aguon assured that MHS will comply with the PSS standard purchasing procurement processes.

'We all represent the Marianas'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

As the CNMI celebrates Marianas Tourism Month this May, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reminds the community that we all play a part in tourism and urged everyone to continue to keep the islands clean.

Speaking at the proclamation signing last May 4, Torres said there are a lot of key factors behind "what tourism means." "Each one of us represent the Marianas. ... We need to keep our islands clean; we really do. When we go to the beach, [and] if we can clean up more than ourselves, [then] that's better for all of us," he said.

Torres said cleaning the environment is also showcasing the islands to incoming tourist, and "It's the only way that we can get our tourism back."

Torres said his administration, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Tourism Resumption Task Force of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, the Hotel Association of the NMI, and tour agencies are working together to push hard in making the CNMI into a world-class destination. "It's going to be a long process for us to get our tourism back, but we are prioritizing all of the efforts

[and] the resources that we have so we can bring [tourist] back. ... Together, we can," Torres said.

Also speaking at the proclamation, MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh said now is the time to build up awareness of the CNMI economy. Because the economy is mainly driven by tourism and as part of Tourism Month, the community should "challenge each other and go out and visit the [tourist] sites. [We] should familiarize ourselves with what we have as a product."

"We should know, whether or not we were there, or grandparents were there, our great grandparents, etc. Each of us, whether it's [the] oldest generation to the youngest generation, we should know what each of these monuments mean. We should know what happened at this beach to make it this way. We should know the importance of this site," said Cavanagh.

She challenges not only MVA and the people that was present at the proclamation but also the community to go out and learn what the CNMI's product really is, because "tourism is everybody's business."

Not only do tourist sites need revitalizing, not only

See WE on Page 4



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Court allows man in assault case to go work on Pagan

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who faces assault and battery and disturbing the peace charges in the CNMI Superior Court has been allowed to leave Saipan so he could work on a construction project on Pagan in the Northern Islands.

Daniel Olkeriil Kaipat, who was initially brought to court

on Aug. 20 last year, has been granted leave to depart Saipan on May 8 by boat to Pagan for the construction project, with the project scheduled to end in late June. The Governor's Office and the Northern Islands Mayor's Office agreed to send Kaipat back to Saipan on or around June 30, even if the project itself has still not been completed. Court documents did not specify the

type of project Kaipat will be working on.

It was learned that Kaipat was recently offered temporary employment with the Governor's Office to assist the Northern Islands Mayor's Office with a construction project. However, the original bail conditions set for Kaipat ordered that he be nowhere near any airports or seaports, and that he should

have no contact with the person he allegedly assaulted.

Almost a year later after his criminal case and bail hearings, both Kaipat's lawyer and the Office of the Attorney General now agree that Kaipat has made active efforts to improve himself, and filed an amended stipulated motion to modify Kaipat's bail on May 5. The motion's hearing and approval took place on May 7

at the temporary courtroom at the Marianas Business Plaza, with CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan presiding.

In the motion, it stated that Kaipat's compliance with the bail condition that he not have any contact with his alleged victim will be a given: "Working in the Northern Islands will, of course, make compliance with this condition a foregone conclusion," states the May 5 court documents. The two parties further stipu-

lated that the project is a great opportunity for Kaipat, as it will pay several thousands of dollars.

The stipulated motion for bail modification clarified that all current bail conditions are to be kept the same, but to briefly grant limited permission to Kaipat to leave the island for the project and the project only. Once the project is completed and/or Kaipat is back on Saipan by or around June 30, the conditions are back in full effect.

IPI supports motion to dismiss breach of contract case filed by Kan Pacific

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), Ltd. has submitted a memorandum of law that supports a motion to dismiss a breach of contract lawsuit filed by Kan Pacific Saipan against IPI at the Superior Court last May 5.

The memorandum, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, goes into detail about past dealings with Kan Pacific, the events that led to the lawsuit filed by Kan Pacific, and how the case requires the Department of Public Lands to be involved, as the government agency is a significant third-party beneficiary in the dispute.

states that around October-December 2015 the media reported on negotiations that were occurring between Kan Pacific and IPI, and soon after news articles were published revealing that a deal was "signed." The memorandum maintains that during this time negotiations were simply to ensure that IPI was in the best possible position to secure the next lease from DPL, and the "deal" was an agreement between Kan Pacific and IPI to

transfer the lease to IPI.

Soon after, Saipan Entertainment filed a lawsuit contesting the legality of the "deal," alleging that DPL did not consent to the negotiations. The aforementioned "deal" was then nullified.

A new agreement between Kan Pacific and IPI in 2016—which the court documents claim "essentially transferred all assets and operations from Kan Pacific to IPI and required Kan Pacific to encour-

age present employees to join IPI—was reached. In total, a \$17.5-million payment from IPI would be made to Kan Pacific, with an initial payment of \$12.5 million and the remaining paid in instalments of \$200,000 per year for the next 25 years, beginning June 2017. The new agreement also ordered a \$16-million payment from Kan Pacific to DPL, which now made DPL a significant third-party beneficiary to the 2016 agreement.

IPI eventually did not win their bid for DPL's new lease of the land, as IPI was unable to meet the requirements imposed by DPL. After three annual payments from IPI to Kan Pacific, IPI did not make a payment in 2020, which resulted in the breach of contract lawsuit that is being disputed by the memorandum.

Through the facts presented in the memorandum, IPI supports a motion to dismiss the breach of contract case, because DPL is a crucial enough party that leaving them out of

the lawsuit will "impair or impede the person's ability to protect the interest," the "person" in question being IPI. Furthermore, IPI maintains that they will not be able to adequately defend their alleged claim to the 146 hectares of land unless what DPL knew about the Kan Pacific-IPI agreement in 2016 and just how liable DPL is to both parties is made known to the court.

The memorandum, and IPI's motion to dismiss its case against IPI, still awaits further review.

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TEL.: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,)
-v-) CIVIL ACTION
AGRIPIA J. GIODA) NO. 18-0103
AND MICHAEL J. GIODA,)
Defendants.)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 4, 2021, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot no. 011 G 264, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 750 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys' Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
750 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None.

Date, Time and Place of Sale
The sale will be held on Monday, June 7, 2021, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of May, 2021.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

An atypical induction to SIS national honors societies

Saipan International School held its National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and National Elementary Honors Society induction ceremonies on May 6, 2021, at the Queen's Club of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

In many ways, this was a year of firsts for SIS and the national honors societies. They have never held their inductions together before, or held them in masks or had to limit audience participation due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the students, staff, and administration pulled off an hour-long induction ceremony followed by dinner at the Kensington. The ceremony started with the current members ushering in the inductees to *Pomp and Circumstance* before they were forced to leave the

ballroom to make room for guests.

In his opening remarks, SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder credited the success of the students to three things: expectation, opportunity and a culture of hard work. "Expectations of success begin at home with the parents, where excellence is expected and students meet the challenge." SIS builds on these expectations, he said, by offering opportunities for personal, academic challenge through a rigorous course load that includes about twice the number of Advanced Placement courses than any other school on island.

"SIS offers 15 AP courses and the next closest school offers eight. And our students excel in these classes. The SIS pass rate for AP exams is 82%, while the typical global pass

rate is around 60% and the rate is just slightly greater than 20% for the CNMI as a whole," he added.

He credits the students for their own culture of hard work, in which they strive to meet the expectations by taking advantage of the opportunities placed in front of them and by excelling at their endeavors.

At SIS, the NHS, NJHS and NEHS have very stringent membership requirements. To be considered, students must have at least 3.7 GPA and must go through a rigorous selection process. The candidates are evaluated on the basis of character, leadership and service to the school and the community, and a faculty council decides the admission of the candidates. To maintain membership, the new members must maintain the

high standards and participate in a service project. For the past years, NHS members of SIS have adopted a year-long school-wide mentoring program to assist elementary and middle school students and students who have special needs. Because of cohorting restrictions for COVID-19, honor society members had to decide to virtually serve the community through dDosomething.org, in which members chose individually projects to fulfill the needs of the community, locally and globally.

For school year 2020-21, Saipan International School added Eunbi Choi, Zhouri Han, James Zheng, Francine Asedillo, Tiana Cabrera,

Jesse Sablan, Linxi Cai, Sam Culp, Huiwon Jeong, Yunwoo Nam, Hyeonbo Shim, Rachel Shin, and Kexuan Yu to NHS and Seiyul Hong, Olivia Hwang, Da Soung Kim, TaeKyoung Kim, John Linden, Andrew Sablan, Jayden Shin, Yebin Shin, Omari Joab, Charlene Son, Irin Chung, Jung Won Huh, Scarlett Kim, Daniel Joab, and Zi Hao Zhu to NJHS. NEHS added Finn Altizer, Faith Ariola, Eliza Culp, Dean Duenas, Beatrice Gross, Michael Guintu, Yewon Huh, Yiming Li, Keoni Ruszala, and Alleena Villaluz to its membership.

With these additions, SIS has 36 NHS members, 31 NJHS members, and 14 NEHS members. (PR)



Saipan International School held its National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and National Elementary Honors Society induction ceremonies on May 6, 2021, at the Queen's Club of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AIRPORT

From Page 1

ments project.

Ada said Hawaiian Rock Products has 240 calendar days to complete the road improvements based on the scope of works developed under the DPW package. He said the completion date will be on Jan. 4, 2022.

Ada told Bush that any additional work not included in the original contract scope must be approved by the DPW secretary through an authorized contract change order prior to start of the work.

"Do not rely on any other form

of verbal or written approval to perform any additional work," Ada told the manager.

The secretary said any and all expenses incurred prior to the approval of a properly executed contract change order may not be eligible for reimbursement.

When asked for comments about the notice to proceed, lawyer Robert T. Torres, on behalf of the Torres family, said yesterday that Airport Road (Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road) will be paved and that for the residents and the community that is a good start. Torres said they commend the Torres-Palacios administration for this project.

However, he said, they look for-

ward to working toward the ultimate solution by DPW, which involves securing the drainage area locations, locking in the funding, and ultimately completing a properly built drainage system.

"Thereafter, we will have a completed Airport Road," Torres said.

Torres earlier wrote to the Division of Coastal Resources Management to assert that the proposed road improvement, if completed, with its reduced drainage areas will result in significant increases in water discharge onto the Torres family property in the area, which would result in the flooding of polluted waters onto their property, erosion, and property damage.

that's at least \$4 million to \$5 million. The governor said the Airport Road project should start very soon and that's at least a couple of million dollars. Torres pointed out that those are projects on Saipan alone. The mayor's offices on Tinian and Rota also have projects of their own.

There is also the Federal Emergency Management Agency's housing program on Saipan and Tinian that continues to roll out, whether it's renovation or complete homebuilding.

"You know how it is important these construction workers are," the governor added.

getting more construction workers to complete the projects that are lined up.

"We have a lot of projects. I mean, I can go down the line on what comes to my mind," he said. For one, the Northern Marianas College has a \$100-million project to rebuild its As Terlaje campus. Also, the Public School System altogether at this moment has projects that are roughly worth \$230 million. Torres said the Bird Island road project has three phases, with each phase worth roughly close to \$13 million, for a total of \$36 million. He said the Beach Road project should be starting soon and

TOURISTS

From Page 1

dor tourism" but, in the meantime, a group that is not considered "normal" visitors but are interested in coming here will be arriving. This group consist of people from the South Korean media and South Korean government officials.

"We're doing steps to test out the system and make sure that we correct issues that need attention and reassure our community that we are doing the right thing, and the right safety measures [will be] in place," said Villagomez.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, the 50 passengers will follow the same quarantine procedures as other passengers arriving in the CNMI.

"Basically, [it's] the same protocol...whether they're fully vaccinated, whether they are doing essential or critical work, those things are going to be weighed and that's where they are put in different [groups]," said Muña, referring to the traveler protocols that CHCC updated last April 27. This includes:

■ Group A: Travelers fully vac-

nated in the CNMI;

■ Group B1: Critical essential workers approved by the CNMI health official;

■ Group B2: Essential workers approved by the CNMI health official who have proof of vaccination;

■ Group B3: Essential workers that are approved by the CNMI health official who are not vaccinated or do not have proof of vaccination;

■ Group C: Travelers from a Level 1 jurisdiction according to CDC COVID-19 travel.

According to her, if the South Korean media and government officials need to do an interview that they can't do virtually, they can be brought to an area where they will be surrounded by people who are fully vaccinated and then immediately brought back to the quarantine site.

"It depends on what their records are showing and that's how we look at it and evaluate it and [figure out] how we're going to accommodate [them]. There are different pathways for quarantine, and those are the ones that we are going to follow exactly," said Muña.

As for the actual tourists, Villagomez said they will be coming in by July 1 but that is still a "moving target" date.

KILILI

From Page 1

blan also encouraged families with children, including those who don't normally file or have earnings to report, to file their taxes by May 17 to ensure eligibility for the advanced monthly child tax payments.

At Sablan's request, the American Rescue Plan Act included the authority for Torres to issue advance monthly child tax credits payments and \$300,000 to cover administrative costs.

If Torres will not exercise his authority, the new expanded tax credit will be issued as a lump sum next year after families file their 2021 tax returns, he added.

WE

From Page 2

does the ocean replenishes the marine resources, but everyone needs to have some sort of revitalization and replenishment in knowing what our product is, Cavanagh said.

"[I challenge] the community to go out and learn what our product really

Sablan said the U.S. Congress removed the minimum earnings requirement for this year so any individual or family, even if they do not earn an income, may qualify with an eligible child as long as they file their taxes.

According to the U.S. Internal Revenue Services' website, for tax year 2021, families claiming the child tax credits for tax year 2021 will receive up to \$3,000 per qualifying child between the ages of 6 and 17 at the end of 2021.

IRS said these families will receive \$3,600 per qualifying child under age 6 at the end of 2021.

Under the prior law, the amount of the child tax credits was up to \$2,000 per qualifying child under the age of 17 at the end of the year.

is, because tourism is everybody's business. In order to be part of that, you need to know what our product is. ... We must know that we are the Marianas, and the Marianas is Mariana strong," said Cavanagh.

The Torres-Palacios administration has declared May as Marianas Tourism Month, in recognition of the vital role tourism plays in the economy of the CNMI.

WORKERS

From Page 1

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres noted that, for Tinian Divert Airfield project alone, the CNMI will need 2,000-plus construction workers. Yet the law that Congress just passed relating to construction workers in the CNMI only bumped up the number by 3,000. This means that, for the Tinian Divert Airfield project alone, 2,000 worker slots would already be gone, Torres said. This, he said, underscores the importance of

Olivia, Liam are SSA's top baby names in 2020

» Mason and Ethan fall out of top 10

Olivia and Liam are once again America's most popular baby names in 2020.

It appears parents chose to stick with the familiar during an unprecedented time, with the top three names for both girls—Olivia, Emma, and Ava—and boys—Liam, Noah, and Oliver—remaining the same for the second year in a row. In fact, out of both Top

10 lists combined, only two names changed, with the traditional names Henry and Alexander edging out Mason and Ethan. The name Henry has been steadily rising in popularity, last appearing in the Top 10 over a century ago, in 1910.

Social Security began compiling the baby name list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. At the time of a child's birth, parents supply the name to the agency when applying for a child's Social

Security card, making Social Security America's source for the most popular baby names.

Each year, the list reveals the effect of pop-culture on naming trends.

The top 10 boys and girls names for 2020:

Boys

1. Liam
2. Noah
3. Oliver
4. Elijah
5. William

6. James
7. Benjamin
8. Lucas
9. Henry
10. Alexander

Girls

1. Olivia
2. Emma
3. Ava
4. Charlotte
5. Sophia
6. Amelia
7. Isabella
8. Mia

9. Evelyn
10. Harper

For all of the top baby names of 2020, and to see where your name ranks, go to Social Security's website, www.socialsecurity.gov/babynames.

Social Security encourages everyone to enjoy the baby names list and, while online, create a **my Social Security** account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. **my Social Security** is a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working

years and continuing while receiving Social Security benefits.

Social Security beneficiaries have instant access to their benefit verification letter, payment history, and complete earnings record by establishing a **my Social Security** account. Beneficiaries also can change their address, start or change direct deposit information, and request a replacement SSA-1099 online. People receiving benefits can request a replacement Medicare card online. **(PR)**

Docomo Pacific is latest NMC ProaPerks Partner

Docomo Pacific is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount on accessories valued at \$100 or less at Docomo Pacific. More information about their promotion can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

Docomo Pacific joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods,

Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Boardline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Coral Garden Hotel, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC, dba Ginen Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe,

Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, JC Cafe, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kevin's Cafe, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Mama D's Cafe, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's




Docomo Pacific is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks. **NMC**

Cafe, Salty's, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Surf Club, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.


NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing nmc@marianas.edu. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-21-024

A&E Design Services for the Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) in coordination with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the following projects: Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement in Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from NMHC & HUD.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-024, A&E Design Services for Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC and NMHC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC and NMHC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC and NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC and NMHC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS NOW AVAILABLE

For Veterans Residing in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

How do I make an appointment?

- Email the Guam Benefits Office at: pctc.vbahon@va.gov
- Call the Guam Benefits Office and leave a message: (671) 489-3793

Include the following:

- Your email and phone number
- First and Last Name
- Reason for Contact

(For security reasons, DO NOT include your social security number in the email/phone call)

What happens next?

A Benefits Counselor will contact you within 2-hours of leaving a message.

If your message is received after 2:30pm, or on a holiday, or on a weekend, you will be notified the next business day of your scheduled interview date/time.

In all cases, a confirmation telephone call or email will be sent to the customer.

Appointment Days/Times: Monday through Friday, 8am to 3:30pm

Benefits Counselors will be available to address Non-Health Care related inquiries related to Compensation, Pension, Survivor Benefits, Claims, Appeals, Status Requests, Etc. and assistance with the claim process.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Micronesians feel hatred in Hawaii, decry police shooting

HONOLULU (AP)—Comments on social media about a 16-year-old boy shot and killed by Honolulu police have been so hateful that a Catholic priest, who hails from the same small Pacific island as the teen's family, hesitates to repeat them.

"It is really bad and I don't want to say it as a priest," said the Rev. Romple Emwalu, parochial vicar at a parish outside Honolulu who was born in Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia. "But, like, 'Micronesians are dirt.'"

Some in the Micronesian community say the April 5 shooting of Iremamber Sykap highlights the racism they face in Hawaii, a place they expected to be more welcoming to fellow islanders.

Police say Sykap was driving a stolen car when he led officers on a chase through oncoming traffic after a series of crimes including an armed robbery and purse-snatching.

Sykap's family is from Chuuk, but he was born in Guam, a U.S. territory, said his mother, Yovita Sykap.

"He's American," she said.

Of Hawaii's 1.5 million residents, 38% are Asian—mostly Japanese and Filipino—26% are white, 2% are Black, and many people are multiple ethnicities, according to U.S. census figures. Native Hawaiians account for about 20% of the population.

There are an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 Micronesians in Hawaii, who began migrating here in bigger numbers in the 1990s in search of economic and educational opportunities, said Josie Howard of We are Oceania, which advocates for the Micronesian community.

The Compact of Free Association allows citizens from the Federated



In this Wednesday, April 28, 2021, photo a stuffed bear is among the items left at a street memorial where Honolulu Police shot and killed 16-year-old Iremamber Sykap, whose nickname was Baby, during a car chase on Kalakaua Ave., in Honolulu.

States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau to live and work freely in the United States in exchange for allowing the U.S. military to control strategic land and water areas in the region.

Located about 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii, the Federated States of Micronesia consists of 607 islands with a population of about 107,000.

The relationship with the U.S. seems to make people in Hawaii incorrectly believe that Micronesians are a drain on social benefits, said Sha Merirei Ongelungel, a Honolulu resident.

A Palauan born and raised in Oregon, Ongelungel came to Hawaii "because all I wanted to do was to fit in and be around Pacific Island-

ers and know what it was like to not stand out like a sore thumb."

When she first got here, a cousin advised her to tell potential employers she was from Oregon. "If you tell them you're Micronesian, you won't get a job," she said her cousin told her.

She wasn't prepared for the racism in Hawaii, and so she left after a year.

Ongelungel said she felt equipped to deal with the racism on the U.S. mainland against those who are not white. "I didn't have training to fight people who looked like my actual blood relatives," she said.

She returned to Hawaii nearly 15 years later.

What might be difficult for a priest to repeat, Ongelungel doesn't hesitate to describe: "People talking about killing cockroaches, calling

for a purge on Micronesians, calling to have us—even those of us who are U.S. citizens who are born in the United States—calling for us to be deported, calling for the parents of minors to be incarcerated, you name it."

She said that whenever there's a crime in the news involving someone who is Micronesian, there's an uptick in hateful comments, but "they never fully go away."

After the shooting, some local media outlets reported about Sykap's criminal history as a juvenile.

"I want to press people on why his past matters when he's a child," Ongelungel said.

The police department has offered little information on the shooting. The department won't release body camera footage because there were other minors in the car with Sykap.

A little more than a week after the shooting, Honolulu police shot and killed a Black man who had entered a home that wasn't his, sat down and took off his shoes, prompting a frightened occupant to call 911. Chief Susan Ballard said race wasn't a factor in that incident.

In response to protests in other parts of the country decrying police brutality against minorities, Ballard, who is white, has said that in general, that degree of racism doesn't exist here.

"Officers are extensively trained to respond to the individual's behavior and actions, not race," said police spokeswoman Michelle Yu.

Eric Seitz, an attorney not involved in the Sykap case who represents families of others who have been killed by police, says Honolulu police have similar issues with race as

other U.S. cities.

"More and more people are coming to realize that Hawaii is not different and that just as they release video footage in all of these other cities for all of these other incidents, it should be obligatory as a matter of public responsibility to release the similar information here," Seitz said.

Nothing in the law prevents police from blurring out faces of the other juveniles in the car with Sykap, he said.

Jacquie Esser, a state deputy public defender, said police will often stop Micronesians for no reason or call them cockroaches. "It's so blatant," she said.

Esser believes the department leaked Sykap's sealed records to the media to demonize him and now are relying on juvenile confidentiality to keep the footage from becoming public.

The department denies doing so. "Juvenile arrest records are generally confidential, and department policy prohibits the release of a suspect's prior arrest history," Yu said.

Ann Hansen befriended Sykap's family in 2008 and became godmother to him and four of his siblings after noticing they walked 3 miles (5 kilometers) each way to get to the Cathedral of St. Andrew, an Episcopal church in downtown Honolulu.

People called him "Baby" because he was the youngest of eight, she said. Hansen said she used to drive him to ukulele lessons.

There has also been an outpouring of support for the slain teen, including a memorial for Sykap at a street corner near where the shooting took place. Some people have kept round-the-clock vigil at the site, decorated with floral bouquets, balloons, candles and a stuffed bear.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SINMI meeting on Thursday

The monthly meeting of the Soroptimist of the Northern Mariana Islands is this Thursday, May 13, at noon at the new Island Cafe on Middle Road in their private back room. You can park at the back side of the restaurant. We will be ordering from the menu.

Please join us. We are looking to grow our club and will be discussing our big "Fun-Raiser," the Margaritaville, which will take place on May 14, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Tickets are \$25 with bottomless margaritas, finger food, and raffle prizes. All funds raised go toward SINMI's Live Your Dream Award in October.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. They celebrate their 100th birthday this year. (PR)

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live

webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **May 13 –Federal Contract Opportunities** – Beta. sam.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. We will show you how to set-up an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ **May 20 –PIEE/WAWF**–Department of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. We will show you how to set-up an account and submit an invoice so you get paid on time.

■ **May 27 –Cybersecurity** –The Department of Defense is requiring cybersecurity certification for vendors. We will discuss the best way to comply with DOD's requirement. The upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) and

the DFARS Interim Rule will be discussed. Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

Military trainings in Guam

ASAN, Guam—The Guam National Guard will conduct training in Radio Barrigada up to May 23 from midnight to 11:59pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor up to May 21 from 9am to 4pm. The public is advised to be aware of the training event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean up to May 13 from 9am to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E, 13°42'N/144°36'E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj,

Radio Barrigada, and South Finegayan up to May 13 from 9am to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada up to May 13 from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor up to May 13 from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

Government contractors will conduct surveys in Radio Barrigada from May 10 to July 2 from 7am to 5pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor and Reserve Craft Beach today, May 11, from 9am to 5pm. The public is advised to

be aware of this training event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Orote Point today, May 11, from 7am to 4pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor today, May 11, from 9am to 2pm. The public is advised to be aware of this training event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on U.S. Naval Base Guam today, May 11, from 5pm to 10pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Apra Harbor today, May 11, from 7am to 4pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Reserve Craft Beach and Outer Apra Harbor on May 12 from 9am to 5pm. The public is advised to be aware of this training event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on NBG on May 12 from 9am to 2pm. Simulated

ammunition is authorized for use during this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada on May 12-21 from 8am to 5pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Orote Point, Reserve Craft Beach, and NBG on May 13 from 4pm to 11:45pm. Simulated ammunition is authorized and blank ammunition will be utilized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on May 13 from 9am to 2pm. The public is advised to be aware of this training event.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. (PR)

Kim-Tenorio sees need for mental health court

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, who currently handles the CNMI Drug Court, spoke about the necessity for more specialty courts in the

CNMI—namely a mental health court—in an interview after the proclamation signing of CNMI Drug Court Month last Thursday.

“What I think all of us judges have realized being on the bench is that we have an increasing number of people who are committing crimes because they have a mental health illness,” said Kim-Tenorio.

While the concrete details

for what services the mental health court will provide is still in the works, Kim-Tenorio explored the possibilities of programs that would set a treatment regimen for those that put off taking their mental

health medication, help those that have not completed schooling receive their high



Kim-Tenorio

school diplomas (typically referred to as GEDs), and ensure that the people participating in the mental health court's programs have a Medicaid or insurance card so that they can get annual checkups.

“It's a holistic approach. We heal the whole person, not just one part. ... We want

to help people be part of our community again in a positive manner,” said Kim-Tenorio.

When asked about the working timeline for the opening of the mental health court, Kim-Tenorio hopes to see the court open by the end of the summer. “I'm being ambitious. I'm hoping we can get this off the ground by July,” she said. *(Joshua Santos)*

UOG master's students to host political status forum on Saturday

The Administrative Law class of the University of Guam's Master of Public Administration program, PA-540, will be hosting a virtual political status forum at 11am this Saturday titled “Guam's Political Status: Where We Are Now and Where We Can Be Tomorrow.”

The forum comes on the heels of H.R. 1 (For the People Act of 2021) and H.R. 2070 and S. 865, both relative to the self-determination of Puerto Rico, which were introduced in Congress earlier this year seeking to address injustices in the U.S. territories and as Guam continues to explore self-determination and decolonization. The forum seeks to foster discussion and a better understanding of the insular cases and their implications to the U.S. territories, specifically Guam.

The panelists and guest speakers will consist of political and legal experts as well as scholars who will help guide the discussion.

PANELISTS:

■ Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero;

■ Anita Sukola, retired judge of the Superior Court of Guam;

■ Guam Attorney General Leevin Camacho;

■ Carlyle Corbin, international advisor on self-governance and former United Nations representative from the U.S. Virgin Islands;

■ Robert A. Underwood, president emeritus of the University of Guam;

■ Ronald L. McNinch, associate professor of Public Administration at the University of Guam.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

■ Thomas W. Krise, president of the University of Guam;

■ Annette T. Santos, dean of UOG's School of Business and Public Administration;

■ John Rivera, program director of UOG's Master of Public Administration Program;

■ Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American.

The virtual forum will take place from 11am to 1pm this Saturday, May 8. Those interested in tuning in may register at <http://bit.ly/UOGMPA-PA540>.

For more information, contact Natasha Suba at suban@gotritons.uog.edu, Kdee Takawo at takawok@gotritons.uog.edu, or Kara Remeliik at remeliikk@triton.uog.edu. *(PR)*



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Attorney General of Guam Leevin Camacho, right, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin Manibusan Jr. of the District Court of Guam sit on a law-focused panel about Guam's political status for the University of Guam's 40th Presidential Lecture Series in May 2019.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-OPA-096

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 08, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) DELL SERVERS
FOR THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AUDITOR”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ KINA B. PETER
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



COW TALK

Members of the Tinian leadership and the Tinian Cattleman's Association meet with representatives of the Commonwealth Development Authority and Northern Marianas College-CREES and Community Development Institute at the Mayor of Tinian and Aguigan's Office to discuss progress with the Tinian Kualidât Meat Processing Center certification and the needs of ranchers.

NMC

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

www.dcrm.gov.mp

AMENDMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
INVASIVE UNGULATE CONTROL WITH
PLANT MANAGEMENT ON AGUIGUAN ISLAND
COASTAL PERMIT NO. TMS-2021-025

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project on Aguiguan Island.

The Office of the Mayor of Tinian is proposing to implement control measures on the effects of taking of the Micronesian megapode on Aguiguan Island. The Micronesian megapode (Megapodius laperouse) is a federally and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) listed endangered species. The purpose of this project is to create additional megapode habitat on Aguiguan Island, followed by plant management, and assist in ungulate control. Additional proposals include restoring forest habitat by installing fence units, and planting native overstory trees to regenerate naturally.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 5:00 PM. The venue for this hearing will be conducted at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian.

COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a mask at all times. Participants may join virtually via Google Meet by accessing meet.google.com/kao-aaf-dij.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

www.dcrm.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: May 11, 2021

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal general consistency determination from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) regarding the proposed in-water activities and land-based restoration activities analyzed in their Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. More information about the determination can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CNMI-CRCP-General-Consistency-Determination_04292021.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on May 11, 2020 and ending on May 26, 2020. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

CNN commentator Rick Santorum needs a lesson on Native American history

Dear CNN commentator Rick Santorum, In recent televised comments you said that “there isn’t much Native American culture in American culture,” implying that Christian European settlers built this country from nothing.

To set the record straight, this is offensively incorrect. Such words indicate a fundamental misunderstanding of the melting pot of cultures that is these United States.

As a former Pennsylvania senator and U.S. presidential candidate, you should know better.

As a current voice of conservatism with a broad platform, you must do better.

Do you enjoy corn, Mr. Santorum? Or perhaps peanuts, pumpkins, squash or melons? Native Americans were responsible for genetically modifying many crops that still permeate a typical Westerner’s diet. Settlers arriving in the “New World” would never have survived if the native tribes had not shared their farming techniques with them.

How about rubber, kayaks, certain early forms of analgesic or the game of lacrosse? These tribal cultures you so readily dismissed have cast shadows stretching to today, with their discoveries and practices continuing to impact American lives.

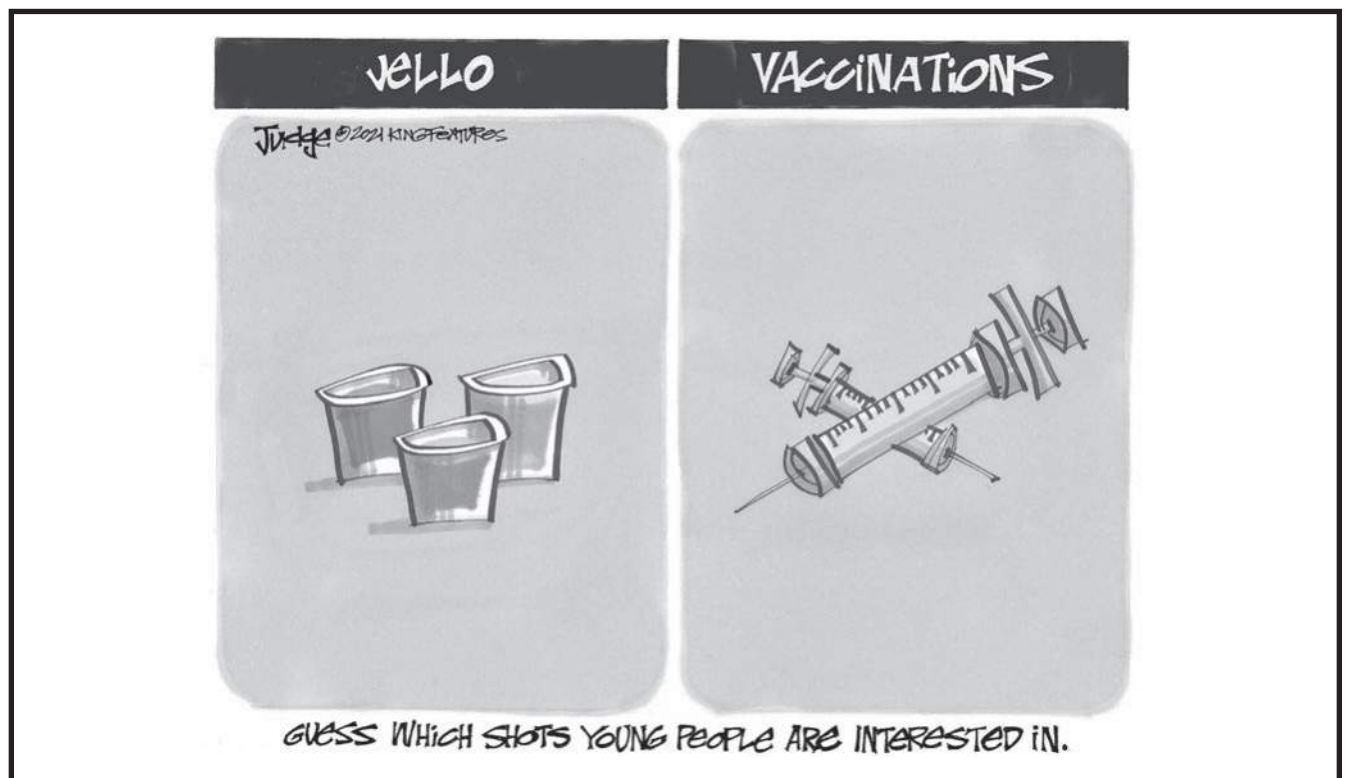
The list of their contributions is lengthy, but perhaps the most significant impact by Native Americans involves the U.S. Constitution. Dating to 1142, the Iroquois Confederacy is said to be the world’s oldest living participatory democracy. This confederacy of six Iroquois-speaking tribes in New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada, provided inspiration for the original 13 colonies of the United States to band together. To this day, the Great Seal of the United States features an eagle holding 13 bundled arrows, a nod to Onondaga leader Canassatego, who argued in the 18th century that many arrows together are tougher to snap than just one.

More than 200 years later, the U.S. Senate continues to acknowledge the significance of this contribution. In 1988, U.S. leaders passed a resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 331) acknowledging “the contribution made by the Iroquois Confederacy and other Indian Nations to the formation and development of the United States of America.”

Not much Native American culture in American culture? Mr. Santorum, without Native Americans, American culture would not exist. It is one thing to argue that the United States’ founding principles are part of what make this country special. It is another thing altogether to argue that this country’s principles of government are wholly unique and do not owe tribute to the people who already occupied the land.

What was merely embarrassing for you, Mr. Santorum, was highly disrespectful to the millions of Native Americans alive today, as well as to their ancestors. In the future, please think before speaking.

(c)2021 the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Population growth too slow? Maybe we should stop turning away immigrants

The country’s population growth is slower than at any time since the Great Depression, and I’m of two minds about that.

On one hand, slower growth is good for a nation bristling with huge problems, starting with climate change and the pressure that more people and development put on our land and infrastructure—water, sewer, landfills, roads and food production. Add to that millions of guns, an opioid epidemic, racism and an extreme and unhealthy political divide. It’s a big mess.

There were 331,449,281 people living in this country as of April 2020, according to the U.S. Census, and that represents a towering challenge to our sustainability as a civilized, well-fed, healthy society.

So, slow growth—not all that bad. Plus, demographers say we should get used to it because, given current policy and the country’s general lack of enthusiasm for more immigrants, we probably won’t see a population explosion any time soon.

On the other hand, slow growth might not be a good thing. Indeed, it might be a very bad thing.

In Maryland and across the nation, we should all find slow growth troubling for at least selfish reasons. We’re all going to need someone to take care of us when we hit the gray years and, at the present rate, there might not be enough help on hand. We’re going to need doctors, nurses and caregivers but, given current conditions—longer life expectancies, lower birthrates, fewer newcomers entering the country—we’re going to come up short.

So, there’s a definite downside to Americans being opposed to more immigration to grow the population. Other countries, particularly those in southern Europe, are already facing this problem. Japan amended its immigration laws a couple of years ago to import more caregivers to keep up with demand.

And there’s one more thing—economic productivity—and that’s no small thing. That, for many, is the core of American exceptionalism. It flows from our economic power.

Unless some of them have changed their minds, I can provide you with the names of 1,470 economists, Republicans and Democrats, who think the country needs to loosen up and welcome more immigrants in order to continue to be an economic power.

They signed an open letter to the Trump White House and Congress in 2017 calling for a smarter immigration system that accepts reality: Immigration brings creative entrepreneurs who start new businesses; it also brings young workers to replace millions of retiring baby boomers. To maintain or increase productivity, these and other economists have said, the nation needs more immigrants. (In an analysis for ProPublica, Moody’s Analytics, estimated that for every 1% increase in population from immigrants, GDP rises 1.15%.)

While pre-pandemic unemployment was low, there were still shortages of workers for certain jobs—long-distance trucking, for instance. Plus, if we’re going to build a new zero-carbon economy around renewable energy, as prescribed in President Joe Biden’s American Jobs Plan, there could be opportunity for millions of workers more.

By DAN RODRICKS

Baltimore Sun

Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for The Baltimore Sun.

So, while some people don’t see the logic in having more immigration, others do.

And I’m one.

I said a few paragraphs ago that I was of two minds, but I made up my mind about this years ago, after looking at both sides: We need to be more welcoming to immigrants; my vote would be to open the doors a little wider again.

And if we gave them a path to citizenship, some of the millions of undocumented immigrants already living here might be able to help us solve some of those big problems I mentioned above.

But what do we do? We keep arguing about this.

And things actually got worse during the Trump presidency. It served as a clarion to white supremacists. As a result, it’s not hard to imagine that immigrants who once thought of moving to the United States, documented or undocumented, took their skills and ambitions elsewhere.

That had to have contributed to the slower population growth recorded by census takers.

“There is no doubt that Trump’s rhetoric and the devastation of the pandemic made an impact,” said Gustavo Torres, the executive director of Casa, the Maryland-based immigrant rights organization.

“There was a concerted effort by the Trump administration to undercount immigrant communities,” says Krish Vignarajah, president and CEO of Baltimore-based Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. “The push to add a citizenship question to the count was deliberately designed to stir up fear of enforcement consequences. When that effort failed, the Trump administration [tried] to exclude undocumented members of our community from the census. After these efforts, combined with four years of anti-immigrant policy and rhetoric, there very well may have been a significant chilling effect on those willing to be counted.”

Texas, Florida and Arizona had lower-than-expected populations in the census. Maryland’s grew by about 7% over the last decade, one of the slowest periods since the 1830s.

Of course, we could also get population growth back to a sustainable level with an increase in babies. We’re at 1.73 births per woman, the lowest fertility rate in 40 years. Nobody asked me, but maybe what Biden prescribes will encourage slightly larger families: universal preschool, affordable child care. And maybe, if we actually slow climate change, people currently pessimistic about the future might be more willing to have kids, and one of those kids might grow up to be your doctor.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Does your business need a succession plan?

What happens to a company if the owner has a heart attack and can't take care of the business for a few months? What if the owner dies? What if they want to retire or move on to a new project? Few businesses have given much thought to these questions. But that's a mistake because every owner will eventually exit a business, voluntarily or not. It's just a matter of time.

Putting a plan in place for handling these scenarios is known as business-succession planning. To create a plan, you'll want to address at least five topics. First, identify potential successors—people or companies that you might want to take over in case of death, disability, or retirement. Second, write down a succession timeline detailing when and how the succession will happen. Third, prepare standard operating procedures for your business such as an employee handbook, training documents, and a list of procedures for handling common situations. These documents will be an invaluable playbook for whoever steps into your shoes. Fourth, value your business using a commonly accepted valuation method. And plan on updating this valuation frequently. Finally, determine how the succession will be funded. For example, maybe the new owner will pay cash. But more likely, the succession will be funded through life insurance or an installment loan.

Not every business needs to bother with these steps. But you probably should create a succession plan if your business has complex processes, employs people other than you, and has repeat clients or ongoing contracts. You might also want to move forward with a plan if you already have a successor in mind. If so, it's helpful to document the key terms between you and the successor.

When should you set up a succession plan? As soon as possible. But if you are nearing retirement age or beginning to think about selling or leaving the business, then a succession plan becomes especially urgent.

Succession plans come in many shapes and sizes. But some versions are more common than others. Below are the most frequent five.

The first option is to sell the business to a co-owner (assuming that you have one or more partners). Normally the partners will sign an agreement saying that if one of them passes away, the surviving partner will buy the deceased partner's share of the business from the deceased partner's heirs. The upside of this arrangement is that the heirs will receive fair compensation while the surviving partner (who likely cares more about the business) will get the business. But the downside is that technically each partner must be prepared to buy out the other partner's shares at a moment's notice. The usual solution is life insurance policies that can cover most if not all of the purchase.

A related avenue is for the business, not your partners, to buy your ownership interest. Under this option, the business will obtain life-insurance policies on each owner and then use the proceeds to buy the deceased owner's stake in the business when they die. The net effect is that the remaining partners end up with a bigger share of the business. This alternative works best if a business has many owners. But it's a poor choice if the business only has two or three owners. In that case, the owners will want to directly buy the deceased partner's ownership stake because it leads to a better tax basis, which translates into lower capital gains tax later.

Scenario three is to transfer a business to an heir. This route works well if only one heir wants to take over the business and has the savvy to keep the business running. But if multiple heirs are in the mix, then expect some family drama. To smoothen the transition, you'll need provide clear instructions on who will take over as well as what the other heirs will receive. You may also want to include a buy-sell agreement that enables heirs who don't want to be part of the business to sell their shares to other heirs.

A fourth route is to sell the business to a key employee. This

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

avenue makes sense if you don't have a co-owner or a family member to entrust the business to. Like selling to a partner, you'll want a buy-sell agreement between you and the key employee. But don't expect the employee to have the funds to buy the company quickly. Instead, you'll likely need to plan on getting paid back over time. For instance, the employee might pay 10% as a down payment and then make quarterly payments over several years.

Finally, you can sell the business to an outside party. This option works well if you have a turnkey business that another person can readily take over. But if, for example, your business is branded under your name or relies on your network of relationships to attract customers, then it will be much less valuable to an outsider.

If you need to set up a succession plan, consider speaking with a business attorney. And if the business has complex finances, then also include a CPA in those discussions.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Republicans no longer fazed by big spending

Once upon a time, Joe Biden's spending proposals would have launched mass demonstrations in opposition.

Little else would have been talked about in conservative media, and ambitious Republican politicians would have competed with one another to demonstrate the most intense resistance, up to and perhaps including chaining themselves to the U.S. Treasury building in protest.

In 2009, President Barack Obama created a spontaneous, hugely influential conservative grassroots movement on the basis of an \$800 billion stimulus bill and a health care plan estimated to cost less than a trillion. In 2021, Biden is proposing to spend about \$6 trillion in his first three big bills, and he can barely create more interest than the debate on wearing masks outdoors.

The conventional wisdom was that after the free-spending Trump years, Republicans would snap back to being deficit hawks when out of power. There's been some of that, but the relatively muted reaction to Biden's almost incomprehensible spending ambitions is testament to the fact that, no, Republicans simply aren't as interested in fiscal issues anymore.

The party has changed and would much rather talk about the border than the budget, and cancellations than Congressional Budget Office scores. Of course, no Republicans will vote for Biden's proposals and all will strenuously object, but that his plans won't engender the fierce reaction they would have 10 years ago is yet another way in which the Overton window has shifted on deficit spending.

What happened? The short answer is Donald Trump.

He demonstrated in vivid fashion that as the GOP coalition had become older and more working class, it didn't care as much about spending restraint or entitlement reform as the party's leaders had presumed.

Trump taught Republicans how to relax and love expansionary fiscal policy. By 2019, he was running a nearly \$1 trillion deficit at a time of peace and prosperity, and of course the pandemic blew the lid off in 2020.

After that, it's difficult for the party to come back and sound the klaxons again about the dangers of red ink.

Besides, the klaxons have issued false alarms before. Republicans realized that past dire warnings of imminent economic harm from deficit spending—rising interest rates, spiking inflation, a debt crisis—haven't panned out.

Indeed, this is one reason the center-left now believes all such admonitions should be ignored, and there's almost no upper bound on deficit spending.

Meanwhile, Republican politics has become focused on culture war issues, another change symbolized by Trump. These issues hit close to the bone in a way that fiscal matters don't. Conservatives worry about their free-speech rights getting trampled, about schools distorting the minds of their children, and about the country's history getting redefined—and it's hard to get them to care more about a balance sheet than these other, more definitional questions.

None of this means that Biden has a free hand. He will presumably be less successful in getting all that he wants

By **RICH LOWRY**

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



with his latest two roughly \$2 trillion spending bills. Even in a permissive environment, natural political exhaustion with the high levels of spending will kick in, and it's always more complicated when tax increases are proposed to pay for at least part of the bill.

Republicans aren't going back to their debt-obsession circa 2010, but they should aspire to be, if not the party of green eyes, the party of fiscal sanity.

Deficit spending hasn't led to damaging outcomes to this point, although that doesn't mean it never will. If interest rates do ever markedly increase again, the level of debt will strain the economy and force unpalatable choices on policymakers of steep tax increases or spending cuts or both. The status of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency could be threatened.

Why increase these risks if it's not strictly necessary?

That question won't bring people into the streets, yet it's one that President Biden and his supporters can't persuasively answer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ADA rules on service animals

It has come to my attention that persons with disabilities who are accompanied by a service dog are occasionally being denied entry into businesses open to the public.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the pub-

lic is allowed to go.

"Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability." *Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA, www.ADA.gov.*

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA; however, the ADA does make a distinction between psychiatric service animals and emotional support animals. *www.ADA.gov.*

When it is not obvious that the dog is a service animal, a covered entity's employees may ask only two specific questions:

- (1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
- (2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability. *www.ADA.gov.*

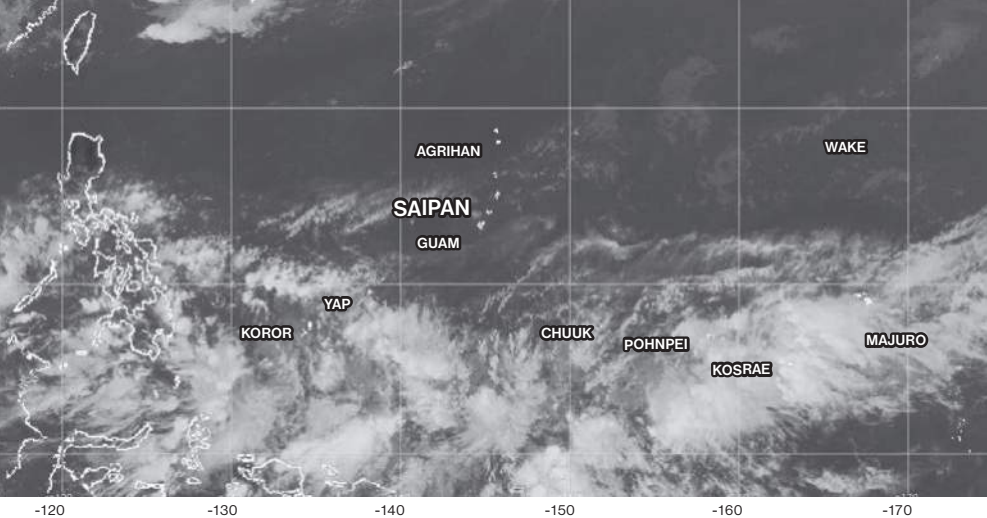
For more information, go to the ADA website: www.ADA.gov or contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at (670) 235-7273/7274.

Jeanne H. Rayphand

Legal counsel, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly sunny with scattered showers in the morning, then partly cloudy with isolated showers in the afternoon. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, MONdAy, May 10, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies and widely scatt ered showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 t o 7 feet with occasional 8 f oot values, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from just to the north of east with a few wind waves from nearly the same direction on top.

Satellite image and accom panying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents with- in the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run nec- essary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulner- able people at home as much as possible. When return- ing home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the com- munity at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are avail- able Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the CO- VID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These num- bers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323- 6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800- 985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit [https:// www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html)

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Face- book, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at [http://www.chcc.gov. mp/pressrelease.html](http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html) and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 79 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 72 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:21 AM	6:12 PM	-
Wednesday	5:58 AM	7:01 PM	-
Thursday	6:39 AM	7:51 PM	-
Friday	7:22 AM	8:42 PM	-
Saturday	8:09 AM	9:34 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	65 54 °F	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	82 70 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81 74 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 72 °F	
London	Sunny	61 45 °F	
Los Angeles	Rain	69 55 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91 79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	58 47 °F	
Miami	Sunny	88 68 °F	
New York	Rain	66 50 °F	
Osaka	Partly cloudy	76 59 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	65 47 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	83 54 °F	
Rome	Sunny	75 54 °F	
Salem	Cloudy	69 42 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	65 51 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	78 52 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	79 59 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	61 43 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:27 AM	Low Tide	1.01	
6:52 AM	High Tide	1.90	
1:54 PM	Low Tide	0.18	
8:31 PM	High Tide	1.84	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business



Last Shot Bar

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

I am happy to know that a lot of Chalan Kanoa people are excited to have a bar here," he said.

"We are not serving food as I want to work with local restaurants like Pepoy's [Resto Bar] because I want the businesses around me to make off money as well. Customers can call Pepoy's with chasers available and limited menu for Last Shot patrons and they can also bring their own chasers and snacks... since we have a big space, we plan to bring in a big shuffle board, bean bags, corn hole, and full size Jenga game," he added.

Aside from the good vibes, ambiance, and feel he wants his bar to be known for, he will also put in "shots" that will be unique and available only at Last Shot Bar.

"People have the notion then when you do 'shots' it means you will get drunk because shots doesn't have to be alcohol based. I am from Wisconsin Lakes where you take your boat from one bar to another and taking shots considered fun times shared with family and friends. I plan to do a couple of fruit-based things here for locals and tourists, have their photos taken to take home as souvenirs so it is not about getting drunk but doing fun... always end up having fun. One that is already in mind is called 'Hang 5' shots where we put the drinks on a surfboard and a group will drink it all at the same time," he said.

Parts of the bar are repur-

posed wood, and doors from a hotel in Garapan that instead of going to the trash, Travis salvaged. "Last Shot Bar is going to remain friendly, easygoing, and a place where people can just relax and enjoy a beer or a cocktail. If people have private parties, they can just call me to reserve tables for them and I am not going to charge. The bar can take in 93 people and 69 during COVID-19 so there is room for everybody... what I don't want to do is to do everything fast and customers have a bad experience about it... I am going to let this grow on its own—we have a griller if people want to bring meat, feature a local tattoo artist have his space maybe once a month, and also in the plan is to have a Bloody Mary bar because there is nothing like that yet on island."

"I run the place with the help of two ladies who have been in the food and beverage business for many years... I plan on dying here and I want this bar to stay open... and I told the girls you guys can keep it and run it forever. I'm not doing this for the money anymore and I plan on doing a lot of charitable stuff... where I come from, the bars are very active in sponsoring. These are things I want and be able to do in moderation," Travis added.

Last Shot Bar is located beside Surf Rider Hotel and is open from Tuesday to Friday, 4pm-12midnight, Saturday, 2pm-midnight, and Sunday, 12noon-6pm. For more information call (670)588-SHOT (7468) or email: lastshotbar-saipan@gmail.com.

Last Shot Bar is located beside Surf Rider Hotel along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.



Last Shot Bar owner Travis Baker is making his dream come true on Saipan and now calls it home.

ues what they want "This bar was built in a year and a half after research and asking local people who have become my family and good friends what they want in a bar and why they don't go to a bar? If they were to go to a bar what would it be? What you will see and hopefully experience in the bar are all the answers that I got—they like open air which I like too, nice and wide bars stools, a long bar, and a space for play as we have the dart board and pool table," he said.

"I incorporated island and Caribbean feel colors and flare because I wanted to bring light and bright because a lot of people do not like to come in a dark atmosphere. I have a

drummer friend on island and I told him, I will buy him snare drums if he can figure out how to play calypso music...afternoon drinking music that is light and fun... and of course local music that something people can dance to. We have a beach view where in the future we would have a beach party once a month," he added.

Travis said Last Shot Bar does not conform to just one type of a bar. "I want my bar to be a mix of a biker bar and island bar that will come with decoration. I want it to be a hint of this and that so it is something familiar to people... this place is for everyone—singles, couples, husband and wife, etc. where everyone feels safe. I

Cyberattack on US pipeline is linked to criminal gang

NEW YORK (AP)—The cyberextortion attempt that has forced the shutdown of a vital U.S. pipeline was carried out by a criminal gang known as DarkSide that cultivates a Robin Hood image of stealing from corporations and giving a cut to charity, two people close to the investigation said Sunday.

The shutdown, meanwhile, stretched into its third day, with the Biden administration loosening regulations for the transport of petroleum products on highways as part of an "all-hands-on-deck" effort to avoid disruptions in the fuel supply.

Experts said that gasoline prices are unlikely to be affected if the pipeline is back

to normal in the next few days but that the incident—the worst cyberattack to date on critical U.S. infrastructure—should serve as a wake-up call to companies about the vulnerabilities they face.

The pipeline, operated by Georgia-based Colonial Pipeline, carries gasoline and other fuel from Texas to the Northeast. It delivers roughly 45% of fuel consumed on the East Coast, according to the company.

It was hit by what Colonial called a ransomware attack, in which hackers typically lock up computer systems by encrypting data, paralyzing networks, and then demand a large ransom to unscramble it.

On Sunday, Colonial Pipeline said it was actively in the process of restoring some of its IT systems. It says it remains in contact with law enforcement and other federal agencies, including the Department of Energy, which is leading the federal government response. The company has not said what was demanded or who made the demand.

However, two people close to the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the culprit as DarkSide. It is among ransomware gangs that have "professionalized" a criminal industry that has cost Western nations tens of billions of dollars in losses in the past three years.

DarkSide claims that it does not attack hospitals and nursing homes, educational or government targets and that it donates a portion of its take to charity. It has been active since August and, typical of the most potent ransomware gangs, is known to avoid targeting organizations in former Soviet bloc nations.

Colonial did not say whether it has paid or was negotiating a ransom, and DarkSide neither announced the attack on its dark web site nor responded to an Associated Press reporter's queries. The lack of acknowledgment usually indicates a victim is either negotiating or has paid.

French demonstrators demand more action on climate change

PARIS (AP)—Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Paris and other French cities on Sunday to call for more ambitious measures in the fight against climate change.

The nationwide protests come after the lower house of parliament this week approved a climate bill aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions that environment activists say doesn't go far or fast enough.

"As it stands, the (proposed) law is a climatic and social failure," said a group of climate campaigners, "Ensemble pour le climat" ("Together for climate").

Greenpeace France denounced "the government's refusal to take action for climate."

Activists blame President Emmanuel Macron, who has been very vocal about his support for climate change action, for having "weakened" a set of measures initially proposed by a panel of 150 citizens who had worked for months on the issue.

Sarah Moore of Paris-based nongovernmental or-

ganization International Science Council said "we are all here because we are in an extremely urgent situation... I think France is in a position to do something very strong with the 2015 Paris (climate) Agreement and in fact, we're not doing anything."

Victor Duong, 32, a senior executive in Paris, said "we want to have more concrete policy actions, we want countries to commit to emitting less carbon, to being more respectful of the environment, in terms of recycling, agriculture, our way of consuming."

The bill, which will now be debated in the Senate, includes a ban on domestic flights under two and half hours that can be done by train and measures to support renovation of high energy-consuming buildings and encourage greener cars. Meanwhile, French newspaper Journal du Dimanche reported Sunday that a referendum to include the need to preserve the environment into the French Constitution, promised by Macron, won't be able to take place.

Last Shot Bar will not conform to one type of bar. It is a bar where people will find something familiar and stay for a drink or two.

Last Shot Bar located along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa opened last week was borne out of a dream. Owner Travis Jones always had the idea of retiring and opening an island bar. Many years traveling for work as a contractor, he has been around the world and

similar U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. When he landed on Saipan two years ago, it was while driving along Beach Road to his hotel that he realized this island is the perfect spot to do finally do it.

Jones said the people on the island have taken him in and changed his life and he val-

Nation

Man kills 6, then self, at Colorado birthday party shooting

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—A gunman opened fire at a birthday party in Colorado, slaying six adults before killing himself Sunday, police said.

The shooting happened just after midnight in a mobile home park on the east side of Colorado Springs, police said.

Officers arrived at a trailer to find six dead adults and a man with serious injuries who died later at a hospital, the Colorado Springs Gazette reported.

The suspected shooter was the boyfriend of a female victim at the party attended by friends, family and children. He walked inside and opened fire before shooting himself, police said.

The birthday party was for one of the people killed, police said.

Neighbor Yenifer Reyes told The Denver Post she woke to the sound of many gunshots.

"I thought it was a thunderstorm," Reyes said. "Then I started hearing sirens."



Police brought children out of the trailer and put them into at least one patrol car, she said, adding that the children were "crying hysterically."

Authorities say the children,

who weren't hurt in the attack, have been placed with relatives.

Police on Sunday hadn't released the identities of the shooter or victims. Authorities

say a motive wasn't immediately known.

"My heart breaks for the families who have lost someone they love and for the children who have lost their

parents," Colorado Springs Police Chief Vince Niski said in a statement.

It was Colorado's worst mass shooting since a gunman killed 10 people at a Boulder

Family and friends of the victims who died in a shooting, comfort each other down the street from the scene in Colorado Springs, Colo., on Sunday, May 9, 2021.

supermarket March 22.

"The tragic shooting in Colorado Springs is devastating," Gov. Jared Polis said Sunday, "especially as many of us are spending the day celebrating the women in our lives who have made us the people we are today."

Colorado Springs, population 465,000, is Colorado's second-biggest city after Denver.

In 2015, a man shot three people to death at random before dying in a shootout with police in Colorado Springs on Halloween. Less than a month later, a man killed three people, including a police officer, and injured eight others in a shooting at a Planned Parenthood clinic in the city.

Tearful reunions mark second Mother's Day under pandemic

Last Mother's Day, they celebrated with bacon and eggs over FaceTime. This time, Jean Codianni of Los Angeles flew to New Jersey to surprise her 74-year-old mother, now that both have been vaccinated against the disease that has stolen uncountable hugs and kisses around the world.

"You forget how your mom smells, how she looks. It's like, she never looks as beautiful as the last time you saw her," Codianni said. "We understand how privileged we are, how lucky we are. Hundreds of thousands of people don't get to celebrate Mother's Day, or are celebrating it under a veil of grief."

Joyous reunions among vaccinated parents and children across the country marked this year's Mother's Day, the second one celebrated during the coronavirus pandemic. Some families separated by worries of transmitting the virus saw each other for the first time in more than a year, emboldened by their vaccinations, as many others grieved for mothers lost to the virus.

For Pam Grimes, Mother's Day last year remains a fuzzy yet "scary and depressing" memory, blurred together with the rest of the pandemic's early months. In contrast, when her vaccinated adult grandchildren gathered at her Panama City, Florida, home to celebrate this year, they hugged and laughed and teased each other.

"The whole world felt better," Grimes said.

Historian Andy Verhoff didn't see his mother for Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's. But for Mother's Day, he drove from his home in Columbus, Ohio, to spend a day in rural Putnam County, Ohio with her, stopping at the first historical marker they'd worked on together. Both mother and son were vaccinated, giving them the confidence to take their masks off—which made it feel like a normal, pre-pandemic day, Verhoff said.

"We never let the mask get in the way of things," Verhoff said. "It was just nice to not have my glasses fog up."

Some long-term care facilities across the country prepared for the special day by facilitating in-person visits, especially as some states have relaxed visitation rules in recent months given rising vaccination rates and dropping case numbers.

In suburban Detroit, residents with dementia at Addington Place lately have been allowed to see visitors in person. But the big change Sunday was their ability to leave for a special meal with family members and return without being quarantined. Moms were also receiving roses from staff.

"Residents can feel the energy now that families are coming in," said Kelley Fulkerson, business office manager at Addington in Northville. "There is excitement among staff—and tears and excitement among families waiting to see loved ones."

St. Joseph of Harahan—an assisted living facility in Harahan, Louisiana—held a parking lot parade Friday with dozens of cars honking and family members yelling well wishes for Mother's Day.

Residents in masks sat behind caution tape and waved to loved ones whom they had waited to see for more than a year in some cases. Workers passed out balloons and flowers.

Cathedral Village, a nursing home and rehabilitation center in Philadelphia, was spacing out weekend visits for Mother's Day, said supervisor Hannah Han. Social workers were helping some families that wanted to take people home to celebrate. Visits in private rooms required masks and gowns.

Mary Daniel, who last year took a job as a dishwasher so she could see her husband at a long-term care facility in Jacksonville, Florida, said holidays are important to maintain traditions with family. She said spouses and others should be recognized as essential caregivers who offer emotional support and be allowed inside.

"We are seeing progress with people being allowed to see loved ones and visit or take them home for holidays, but we are still seeing individual facilities who refuse to follow the federal guidance on allowing visits," said Daniel, who started a group called Caregivers for Compromise-Because Isolation Kills Too.

2 Catholic bishops at odds over Biden receiving Communion

They share Roman Catholicism as a faith and California as their home base. Yet there's a deep gulf between Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco and Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego in the high-stakes debate over whether politicians who support abortion rights should be denied Communion.

Cordileone, who has long established himself as a forceful anti-abortion campaigner, recently has made clear his view that such political figures—whose ranks include President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi—should not receive Communion because of their stance on the issue. The archbishop issued a pastoral letter on the topic May 1 and reinforced the message in an hourlong interview Friday with the Catholic television network EWTN.

"To those who are advocating for abortion, I would say, 'This is killing. Please stop the killing. You're in position to do something about it,'" he told the interviewer.

In neither the letter nor the interview did Cordileone mention Pelosi, who represents San Francisco, by name. But he has criticized her in the past for stances on abortion that directly contradict Catholic teaching.

McElroy, in a statement published Wednesday by the Jesuit magazine America, assailed the cam-

paign to exclude Biden and other like-minded Catholic officials from Communion.

"It will bring tremendously destructive consequences," McElroy wrote. "The Eucharist is being weaponized and deployed as a tool in political warfare. This must not happen."

The polarized viewpoints of the two prelates illustrate how divisive this issue could be if, as expected, it comes before the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at its national assembly starting June 16. There are plans for the bishops to vote on whether the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine should draft a document saying Biden and other Catholic public figures with similar views on abortion should refrain from Communion.

In accordance with existing USCCB policy, any such document is likely to leave decisions on withholding Communion up to individual bishops.

Biden, the second Catholic U.S. president, attends Mass regularly, worshipping at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, and in Washington.

The archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, has made it clear that Biden is welcome to receive Communion at churches he oversees. Bishop William Koenig, appointed April 30 to head the Wilmington diocese, said he would gladly speak with Biden about his

views on abortion but did not say whether he would allow him to continue receiving Communion, as Koenig's predecessor had done.

It's considered unlikely that Biden would heed any call to forgo Communion, but a USCCB document urging him to do so would be a remarkable rebuke nonetheless.

Cordileone, in his pastoral letter, wrote that it's the responsibility of Catholic clergy "to correct Catholics who erroneously, and sometimes stubbornly, promote abortion."

Initially, this rebuke should come in private conversations between "the erring Catholic" and his or her priest or bishop, wrote Cordileone, who then noted that such conversations are often fruitless.

"Because we are dealing with public figures and public examples of cooperation in moral evil, this correction can also take the public form of exclusion from the reception of Holy Communion," he wrote. "This is a bitter medicine, but the gravity of the evil of abortion can sometimes warrant it."

In the 2020 presidential election, Catholic voters split their votes almost evenly between Biden and Republican Donald Trump. National polls have consistently shown that a majority of U.S. Catholics believe abortion should be legal in at least some cases.

World

Death toll soars to 50 in school bombing in Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Grieving families buried their dead Sunday following a horrific bombing at a girls' school in the Afghan capital that killed 50 people, many of them pupils between 11 and 15 years old.

The number of wounded in Saturday's attack climbed to more than 100, said Interior

Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian. In the western neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, families buried their dead amid angry recriminations at a government they said has failed to protect them from repeated attacks in the mostly Shiite Muslim neighborhood.

"The government reacts after

the incident, it doesn't do anything before the incident," said Mohammad Baqir, Alizada, 41, who had gathered to bury his niece, Latifa, a Grade 11 student the Syed Al-Shahda school.

Three explosions outside the school entrance struck as students were leaving for the day, said Arian. The blasts

targeted Afghanistan's ethnic Hazaras who dominate the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood, where the bombings occurred. Most Hazaras are Shiite Muslims. The Taliban denied responsibility, condemning the attack and the many deaths.

The first explosion came from a vehicle packed with explosives, followed by two others, said Arian, adding that the casualty figures could still rise.

In the capital rattled by relentless bombings, Saturday's attack was among the worst. Criticism has mounted over lack of security and growing fears of even more violence as the U.S. and NATO complete their final military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

At Vatican City, in his traditional Sunday remarks to faithful in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis cited the bombing. "Let us pray for the victims of the terrorist attack in Kabul, an inhumane action that struck so many girls as they were coming out of school," he said. The pontiff then added: "May God give Afghanistan peace."

The Dasht-e-Barchi area has been hit by several incidents of violence targeting mi-

nority Shiites and most often claimed by the Islamic State affiliate operating in the country. No one has yet claimed Saturday's bombings.

In this same neighborhood in 2018, a school bombing killed 34 people, mostly students. In September 2018 a wrestling club was attacked killing 24 people and in May 2020 a maternity hospital was brutally attacked killing 24 people, including pregnant women and infants. And in October 2020, the Kawsar-e-Danish tutoring center was attacked, killing 30 people.

Most of the attacks were claimed by the Islamic State affiliate operating in Afghanistan.

The radical Sunni Muslim group has declared war on Afghanistan's Shiites. Washington blamed IS for a vicious attack last year in a maternity hospital in the same area that killed pregnant women and newborn babies.

Soon after the bombing, angry crowds attacked ambulances and even beat health workers as they tried to evacuate the wounded, Health Ministry spokesman Ghulam Dastigar Nazari said. He had implored residents to cooperate and allow ambulances free

access to the site.

Arian, the Interior Ministry spokesman, blamed the attack on the Taliban despite their denials.

Bloodied backpacks and schools books lay strewn outside the Syed Al-Shahda school. In the morning, boys attend classes in the sprawling school compound and in the afternoon, it's girls' turn.

On Sunday, Hazara leaders from Dasht-e-Barchi met to express their frustration with the government failure to protect ethnic Hazaras, deciding to cobble together a protection force of their own from among the Hazara community.

The force would be deployed outside schools, mosques and public facilities and would cooperate with government security forces. The intention is to supplement the local forces, said Parliamentarian Ghulam Hussein Naseri.

The meeting participants decided that "there is not any other way, except for people themselves to provide their own security alongside of the security forces," said Naseri, who added that the government should provide local Hazaras with weapons.

Vaccine deserts: Some countries have no COVID-19 jabs at all

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP)—At the small hospital where Dr. Oumaima Djarma works in Chad's capital, there are no debates over which coronavirus vaccine is the best.

There are simply no vaccines at all.

Not even for the doctors and nurses like her, who care for COVID-19 patients in Chad, one of the least-developed nations in the world where about one third of the country is engulfed by the Sahara desert.

"I find it unfair and unjust, and it is something that saddens me," the 33-year-old infectious diseases doctor says. "I don't even have that choice. The first vaccine that comes along that has authorization, I will take it."

While wealthier nations have stockpiled vaccines for their citizens, many poorer countries are still scrambling to secure doses. A few, like Chad, have yet to receive any.

The World Health Organization says nearly a dozen countries—many of them in Africa—are still waiting to get vaccines. Those last in line on the continent along with Chad are Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eritrea and Tanzania.

"Delays and shortages of vaccine supplies are driving African countries to slip further behind the rest of the world in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and the continent now accounts for only 1% of the vaccines administered worldwide," WHO warned Thursday.

And in places where there are no vaccines, there's also the chance that new and concerning variants could emerge, said Gian Gandhi, UNICEF's COVAX coordinator for Supply Division.

"So we should all be concerned about any lack of coverage anywhere in the world," Gandhi said, urging higher-

income countries to donate doses to the nations that are still waiting.

While the total of confirmed COVID-19 cases among them is relatively low compared with the world's hot spots, health officials say that figure is likely a vast undercount: The countries in Africa still waiting for vaccines are among those least equipped to track infections because of their fragile health care systems.

Chad has confirmed only 170 deaths since the pandemic began, but efforts to stop the virus entirely here have been elusive. Although the capital's international airport was closed briefly last year, its first case came via someone who crossed one of Chad's porous land borders illegally.

Regular flights from Paris and elsewhere have resumed, heightening the chance of increasing the 4,835 already confirmed cases.

As cases grow, India's vaccination campaign falters

BENGALURU, India (AP)—Since India opened vaccinations to all adults this month, hoping to tame a disastrous coronavirus surge sweeping across the country, the pace of administering the shots has dropped with states saying they only have limited stock to give out.

Cases meanwhile are still rising at record pace in the world's second-most populous nation. Alongside a slowdown in vaccinations, states have gone to court over oxygen shortages as hospitals struggle to treat a running line of COVID-19 patients.

On Sunday, India reported 403,738 confirmed cases, including 4,092 deaths. Overall, India has over 22 million confirmed infections and 240,000 deaths. Experts say both figures are undercounts.

India's Supreme Court said Saturday it would set up a national task force consisting of top experts and doctors to conduct an "oxygen audit" to determine whether supplies from the federal government were reaching states.

Complaints of oxygen shortages have dominated the top court recently, which

stepped in earlier this week to make sure the federal government provided more medical oxygen to hospitals in the capital, New Delhi.

The country's massive vaccination drive kicked off sluggishly in January when cases were low and exports of vaccines were high, with 64 million doses going overseas. But as infections started to rise in March and April, India's exports drastically slowed down so doses went to its own population. So far, around 10% of India's population have received one shot while just under 2.5% have got both.

At its peak in early April, India was administering a record high of 3.5 million shots a day on average. But this number has consistently shrunk since, reaching an average of 1.3 million shots a day over the past week. Between April 6 and May 6, daily doses have dropped by 38%, even as cases have tripled and deaths have jumped sixfold, according to Bhramar Mukherjee, a biostatistician at the University of Michigan who has been tracking India's epidemic.

One reason for the drop in shots is that there are just not

enough available, experts say. Currently, India's two vaccine makers produce an estimated 70 million doses each month of the two approved shots—AstraZeneca, made by the Serum Institute of India, and another by Bharat Biotech.

Vaccine supply has remained nearly the same since the drive began in January, but the target population eligible has increased by threefold, said Chandrakant Lahariya, a health policy expert. "In the beginning, India had far more assured supply available than the demand, but now the situation has reversed," he added.

In Kerala state, the drive to inoculate all adults is crawling along because "our single biggest problem is the very slow arrival of supplies," said the state's COVID-19 officer, Amar Fette.

In New Delhi, many are waiting for hours outside vaccination centers—but only after they've been able to book a slot.

For Gurmukh Singh, a marketing professional in the city, this has been impossible. "It gets really frustrating, having so many hospitals and vaccine centers around but not being able to get access because they are all pre-booked," he said.



Erwin V. Borlongan

As we go through this difficult time, we are extremely blessed and grateful for your love, support, comfort and prayers for our family. May God bless you and your loved ones; and may His love continue to shine through you.

With love and gratitude,
Ma. Elena, Nicole, Alyssa and Andrew



“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Philippians 1:21

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's the old good news/bad news scenario. The economy appears to be rebounding after its coronavirus-induced recession. The bad news it's causing a spike in fuel prices, now surpassing \$3 a gallon. Nationwide, prices averaged \$2.927 a gallon, according to the AAA. That's an increase of nearly one-third from a year ago, when pandemic lockdowns decimated demand for fossil fuel. In many places, gasoline prices have already surpassed the \$3 mark, particularly in tax-happy California, where it's hovering near \$4 a gallon. Expect prices to continue their climb with the arrival of summer as Americans take to the road on vacation and pandemic restrictions lift.

With the inexorable rise in gas prices, it remains to be seen if consumers' love of SUVs will be impacted. In the meantime, it's wise to remember what American founding father Thomas Paine said, "What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is

dearness only that gives everything its value."

So for a value equation, might I recommend the 2021 Honda Accord Hybrid, with an EPA rating of 48 mpg in both city and highway driving? Certainly, those are good numbers. So is this one: \$27,565, its base price including destination charge. That's nearly 33 percent less than the average price of a new car, which was \$40,857 in January 2021 according to Kelley Blue Book.

And there are plenty of other reasons to consider this thrifty sled.

Consider the base Accord, with its 1.5-liter engine that generates 192 horsepower and 192 pound-feet of torque. In comparison, the Hybrid has an additional 20 horsepower, 40 pound-feet of torque and is one second quicker at reaching 60 mph. It's also more fuel efficient. Yes, the base Accord

returns an EPA-rated 30 mpg city, 38 highway and 33 mpg combined, which is very commendable. But the Hybrid nets you an extra 18 mpg city, 10 mpg highway, and 15 mpg combined. Toss in the greater refinement from the Hybrid's drivetrain and its additional standard equipment compared to the non-Hybrid models, and it's a no-brainer, even though the Hybrid costs \$1,800 more. Why? Add in the cost of fuel, and you'll make up the difference in price in a little over four years, according to the EPA. After that, the Hybrid saves you money.

All of this comes with a couple caveats. First, these figures are for the base Hybrid, which runs on 17-inch wheels and returns 48 mpg in combined city/highway driving and costs \$900 a year in fuel. The test model was a Touring, with 19-inch wheels, and

rated at 43 mpg. This will cost an extra \$100 annually in fuel, or \$8.33 monthly. And thanks to the Hybrid's driveline and battery pack, you won't get a spare tire, merely a tire repair kit. But that's no worse than many non-hybrid vehicles. Besides, when was the last time you had a flat tire?

For 2021, all Accords get a modest facelift that includes updates to the grille, LED headlights, fog lights, radar unit integration, and new 19-inch alloy wheels. There's a notable upgrade in technology, thanks to wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, as well as wireless charging. Hybrid models get powertrain revisions that furnish stronger, more responsive acceleration, greater electric power range and a more natural and consistent braking feel.

Accords have always possessed a remarkable balance

of a comfortable ride and sporty handling, one that few mainstream automakers seem to perfect. Road impacts are soaked up with aplomb but not at the expense of handling. The car does exhibit some body roll when cornering, but that's to be expected given its ride/handling compromise. Overall, it possesses the same fun-to-drive character that Honda has imparted for decades, and the new model year proves to be no different.

That said, the changes made to the Hybrid model bring a greater refinement and a far more natural feel. Powering off the line is fun, thanks to the electric motor's generous torque and its instant throttle response. Better yet, you don't feel the gas engine's vibration when it comes on, adding an extra sense of grace.

Given that the Accord Hybrid Touring has a price clos-

ing in on \$40,000, you'd expect the interior to have an upscale ambience, and you'd be correct. Its trim details are striking, from the white leather heated/ventilated front seat, and heated rear seats, to the head-up display and wireless Apple Car Play, which would have worked better if Honda's infotainment system recognized my paired phone upon start-up. It never did. Each time the car started, it required that I manually go in and connect it. Honda's infotainment systems continue to lag the industry in design and reliability, and this one is no different.

Still, it's hard to resist the Accord Hybrid's beautiful yet sensible design, impeccable balance of ride and handling, and a vehicle that delivers luxury car equipment with economy car fuel economy.

It's a very tempting proposition.

AUTO REVIEW: The answer to escalating gas prices?

The 2021 Honda Accord Hybrid Touring



(JAMES HALFACRE/HONDA/TNS)
2021 Honda Accord Hybrid Touring.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Honda Accord Hybrid Touring

- Base price: \$37,435
- Engine: DOHC 2.0-liter four-cylinder
- Motor: AC synchronous permanent-magnet electric motor
- Horsepower/torque: 212/232 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 44/41 mpg
- Observed fuel economy: 35 mpg
- Length/Width/Height: 192.2/73.3/57.1 inches
- Cargo capacity: 16.7 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 3,415 pounds

Motormouth: Repaint your car? Try this instead

Q: I recently bought a new 2021 Mazda SUV. The color is white, and at the time I thought that was what I wanted. But now I am not so sure. I am going to keep the vehicle but feel that I would like it to be a different color. Is it OK to repaint a new car? Would the paint job work, or would there be a problem? Any insight you could give me would be helpful.

—M.B., Las Vegas

A: Sure, you can paint a new car, but there is an alternative. Get it wrapped. 3M makes a paint wrap film specifically designed to wrap cars and trucks that is not permanent. Hate the new look? Change it. It won't damage the original paint if you

want to go back to plain vanilla.

Q: I am a retired mechanic with 42 years of experience, and I read your column every week in the Boston Herald. I had a car several years ago that had run-flat tires. The rear tire had a 4-by-1-inch hole on the inner sidewall big enough for me to put all four fingers into the hole, up to my thumb — and I have a big hand. I drove into the shop with the tire malfunction indicator light on. What has happened to run-flats?

—C.C., Bridgewater, Massachusetts

A: Run-flat tires were great in theory, but not so great in the real world. Yes, you could drive up to 50 miles at up to

50 mph, but you had to buy a new tire. Many motorists were rudely awakened to the real world when they were told the replacement cost —close to \$75 over the cost of a normal tire. Plus, the tires often need to be replaced in pairs. Not many tire dealers stock them so you may have to wait for overnight shipping. Less than 20 percent of cars today are equipped with run-flat tires.

Q: Isn't it about time that automobile manufacturers began making toll transponders an integral part of their product placed somewhere on the vehicle other than the windshield? It seems to me that a generic transponder could be programmed to be compatible

with E-Z Pass, Sun Pass or other toll collection systems. —H.H., Melrose, Massachusetts

A: I like the idea and maybe that day may come. Meanwhile, various states and tollway authorities need to know about the vehicle to which the transponder is registered. Each transponder has an identification number stored in its circuitry. The transponder's identification number is stored in a database and contains information about the user, the vehicle and other info. Borrowing (or stealing) someone else's transponder is a no-no. Plus, not all systems use the same hardware.

Q: I recently read your rec-

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



ommendation that since most tires are flat tened by punctures and not sidewall damage that the need for a spare is low. My question to you is, if you get a flat and have no spare, what difference does it make to the tire whether it was caused by a puncture or sidewall damage? Stranded

is stranded.

—D.P., Quincy, Massachusetts

A: Then, I guess you are up Schmitt's creek. If you regularly travel along some desolate roads, miles from nowhere may I suggest not only a full-size spare, but a jerry can of extra gas because your cell phone ain't gonna work.

Life & Style

Glenn Close on 8 Oscar nods with no wins: I am not a loser

NEW YORK (AP)—Though Glenn Close has been nominated for eight Oscars without any wins, the distinguished actor wants to make one thing clear: she is not a loser.

Close has been nominated for best actress four times and she competed for her fourth best supporting actress honor at last month's Academy Awards. When "Minari" star Youn Yuh-jung won the prize, the Los Angeles Times

published an article with the headline, "After 8 Oscar losses, Glenn Close is now tied as the most nominated actor without a win." It prompted Emmy winner Sarah Paulson to tweet in Close's defense, "I wish this conversation would cease. She's brilliant and continues to have an extraordinary and enviable career. Nighty night to this click bait convo to nowhereville."

Close, 74, told The Associ-



AP
Glenn Close, nominated for an Oscar for best actress for her role in "The Wife," poses at the 91st Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 4, 2019.

the worst dressed?" And, you know, 'Who made the worst speech?' Forget it. It's not what it's about."

Looking directly in the camera, she passionately ended with: "I say, (expletive) them!"

Close's illustrious and revered career includes wins at mostly ever major awards show. She is a three-time winner at the Emmy, Golden Globe and Tony Awards. She's

earned three Grammy nominations and competed at the Oscars with the films "The World According to Garp," "The Big Chill," "The Natural," "Fatal Attraction," "Dangerous Liaisons," "Albert Nobbs," "The Wife" and "Hillbilly Elegy."

The actor said a year after being homebound because of the pandemic, she really enjoyed seeing her peers at the socially distanced Academy Awards.

Queen's cousin being accused of willingness to sell Kremlin access

LONDON (AP)—An investigative report by British media said Sunday that Queen Elizabeth II's cousin, Prince Michael of Kent, was willing to use his royal status for personal profit and to seek favors from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The undercover investigation by the Sunday Times and Channel 4 saw reporters posing as investors of a fake South Korean gold company seeking contacts in the Kremlin to further its business in Russia.

Prince Michael, 78, allegedly told the reporters by Zoom that he would give their company his royal endorsement in a recorded speech for a \$200,000-fee. He added that he was happy to use his home in Kensington Palace as a backdrop for the endorsement.

The royal's business partner, Simon Reading, also reportedly told the fake investors that Michael could be hired for 10,000 pounds (\$14,000) a day to make "confidential" representations on behalf of

the fictitious gold firm, House of Haedong, to Putin.

"If he (Prince Michael) is representing the House of Haedong, he could mention that to Putin and Putin would find the right person who is interested in South Korea or interested in gold," Reading reportedly said. "It just opens the door, you know, which is so helpful."

He went on to describe Michael as "Her Majesty's unofficial ambassador to Russia", and that tension between the U.K. and Russia has not affected his relationship with Putin.

Responding to the report, Michael's office said he "has no special relationship with President Putin" and that the two men last met in 2003. The royal "earns his own living through a consultancy company that he has run for over 40 years."

"Lord Reading is a good friend, who in trying to help, made suggestions which Prince Michael would not have wanted, or been able, to fulfill," his office said.

ated Press said she didn't see the article or Paulson's tweet, but she quickly responded with: "First of all, I don't think I'm a loser."

"Who in that category is a loser? You're there, you're

five people honored for the work that you've done by your peers. What's better than that?," she said. "And I honestly feel that the press likes to have winners and losers. And then they say, 'Who is

Weinstein sues lawyer Jose Baez, seeks return of \$1M in fees

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein wants his money back.

The convicted rapist is suing his one-time lawyer Jose Baez for breach of contract and is seeking a refund on \$1 million in legal fees he says he paid the high-profile attorney for a short stint on his legal team.

Weinstein alleges Baez was regularly preoccupied with other matters, pawned off im-

portant work on other lawyers, was often unavailable to speak with him about his New York City rape case and later provided fraudulent billing records.

Baez, a Florida-based lawyer best known for representing Casey Anthony, joined Weinstein's defense in January 2019 and left six months later, saying the former movie mogul had tarnished their relationship by communicating only through

other lawyers and by failing to abide by a fee agreement.

Weinstein, in the lawsuit filed Tuesday, claims he agreed to pay Baez and another lawyer \$2 million in \$200,000 monthly payments for their defense work on the landmark #MeToo case but that Baez violated New York law by stating in his agreement that his retainer was non-refundable and non-negotiable.

Aubrey Plaza marries longtime boyfriend director Jeff Baena

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Aubrey Plaza has married her longtime boyfriend, director and screenwriter Jeff Baena.

The "Parks and Recreation" actor called Baena "my husband" for the first time publicly Friday in an Instagram post. Her publicist confirmed the two had married but gave no details.

Plaza, 36, and Baena, 43, have been a couple for about a decade. She has appeared in two of his films, 2014's "Life After Beth" and 2017's "The Little Hours," and is slated to appear in his forthcoming "Spin Me Round," which was the subject of her Instagram post.

"So proud of my darling husband @jeffbaena for dreaming

up another film that takes us to italy to cause some more trouble," Plaza said alongside a photo of the couple.

She also appears in the new Showtime anthology series "Cinema Toast," which he created.

Plaza is best known for playing April Ludgate from 2009 to 2015 on the NBC comedy series "Parks and Recreation."

Serbia gives award to 2019 Nobel Literature winner Handke

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Serbia on Sunday honored 2019 Nobel Literature Prize winner Peter Handke, who is known for his apologist views over Serbia's nationalist policies and Serb war crimes during the 1990s wars in the Balkans.

The Austrian novelist and screenwriter received a state decoration from Serbia President Aleksandar Vucic, a former ultranationalist who now says he wants his country to join the European Union. On Friday, Handke also received honors from Bosnian Serbs.

"Thank you for everything you have done for Serbia," Vucic said. "Serbia is showing gratitude to its friend with this (decoration)."

The RTS television said Handke was awarded for "special contribution in representing Serbia and its citizens in the area of public and cultural activities and for personal persistence in uncompromising responsibility toward the truth."

Disabled son is left off wedding guest list

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my second husband for more than 15 years. My 30+-year-old son from my first marriage, who was born disabled, lives with us. He walks and talks, but cannot be left unattended. He also needs medication. He cannot read or write, but looks like he has no medical issues at all.

I have no extended family members in the state. My husband and I were invited to a family wedding. However, my disabled son was not. Bride's rule: No children allowed. I pointed out that he is older than she is. He sees this relative several times a year.

Child care is hard to find and expensive. I do not know if others tried to get the bride to change her mind. My husband attended alone while my son and I spent the evening with friends and had fun. He didn't say anything to cause a confrontation.

Please share your thoughts. I get very sad whenever family events come around and she is there. Life is different when you have a family with special needs.

HURT IN THE EAST

DEAR HURT: I agree, life is different for families in which someone has special needs. If you haven't already, I think you have the right to express your feelings to the bride. It would be better than silently nursing a grudge and fuming when you see her.

While it would have been nice if she had included your

son in the invitation, she was within her rights to invite—or exclude—anyone if she had concerns. Because your husband was able to represent the family while you and your son had fun elsewhere, from my perspective, everything turned out well.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend never gets off his phone—like ever! The first thing he does in the morning is wake up and grab his phone. He was off one day last week and—I'm not exaggerating—he didn't put it down for 13 hours.

He plays this one particular game, and it's all he does. It's affecting our relationship, but if I say anything about it, he laughs, gets mad or ignores me. I don't know what else to do. Help!

WOMAN VS. PHONE IN OHIO

DEAR WOMAN: Was your boyfriend always like this? If the answer is no, he may have become addicted to gaming, which, as of 2020, had become a multibillion-dollar industry. According to The Addiction Center, the "average" gamer spends six hours a week glued to his or her cellphone. That your boyfriend went on a 13-hour binge is cause for alarm. One sign of addiction is when it interferes with daily life or relationships. That he blows you off when you try to discuss it tells me he is deep in denial.

There is treatment for gaming addiction, but only if the

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



addict is willing to admit there's a problem. Treatment may involve private counseling or, in some cases, inpatient care. However, if this is unaffordable, On-Line Gamers Anonymous (olganon.org) may be a helpful alternative. It is a 12-step program based on the principles of AA. If you go online, you will find there is a fellowship of friends and family members of gaming addicts. You might want to check it out. If you intend to continue this romance, get out of the house when he binges and do something YOU enjoy.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Knicks beat Clippers 106-100 behind Rose and Bullock



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Derrick Rose scored 25 points off the bench, Reggie Bullock added 24 and the New York Knicks beat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-100 on Sunday to snap an eight-game skid at Staples Center.

Bullock made five 3-pointers against his former team and RJ Barrett had four on his way to 18 points. The Clippers are the NBA's best 3-point shooting squad, but they were just 12 of 35.

"He's sort of the unsung hero. Every night he's guarding a tough opponent, he never stops working on the defensive end," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "He's got to continue to do that for us, it opens up so many things."

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 29 points. Paul George added 18 and Nicolas Batum had 13 as the playoff-bound team's two-game winning streak ended in its home finale of the regular season.

The Knicks led by 10 early in the fourth, when they made three 3-pointers, and the Clippers dissolved in miscues and misses.

Leonard returned to the game with 5 1/2 minutes left, scoring five in a row to pull the Clippers to 96-90. He and George combined to score all of the Clippers' final 15 points. Leonard's 3-pointer cut the Knicks' lead to 104-100, but



Taj Gibson made a pair of free throws to seal it.

Julius Randle finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Knicks, who had plenty of supporters cheering despite the limited attendance. Randle's offense was down compared to the 24 or more

points he had in his five previous games.

"They're double-teaming him," Thibodeau said. "Everybody tends to measure people on points or shots and not the all-around game, but the big thing is the perseverance, the way he rebounded the ball and the hustle plays. He played a great game without shooting the ball great."

New York is close to clinching a playoff berth, something the franchise hasn't done since 2012-13. Since then, the Knicks have endured seven seasons of at least 45 losses.

"That would be big, but at the same time Thibs always talks about going through the finish line," Rose said. "We know we're not finished with what we're doing."

Randle added, "Now we feel like we can beat anybody. We have confidence as a team. Anybody can step up, that's the beauty of our team."

Trailing 62-61, the Knicks outscored the Clippers 18-12 to close the third leading 79-74. New York's run was fueled by four 3-pointers, including three by Bullock, to give the Knicks their largest lead to that point.

The Knicks missed their first seven shots of the game while the Clippers raced to a 10-point lead. But the Knicks recovered to tie it up before falling behind by nine in the second quarter.

"We did a good job on Randle in the first half to slow him down and Derrick picked it up for him," Batum said. "Those two guys kept the Knicks in

the game."

Lakers 123, Suns 110

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis had 42 points and 12 rebounds and Los Angeles never trailed against Phoenix.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Alex Caruso each had 17 points and the short-handed Lakers won for just the third time in their past 11 games.

LeBron James missed his fourth straight game for Los Angeles because of a sprained right ankle, and Kyle Kuzma was held out because of tightness in his back.

Cameron Payne had 24 points for Phoenix Suns, Devin Booker added 21 points and Mikal Bridges 15. Second in the NBA and West behind Utah, the Suns have lost two of three following a five-game winning streak.

Heat 130, Celtics 124

In Boston, Jimmy Butler had 26 points and 11 assists to help Miami hold off Boston as the teams fight for position in the tight Eastern Conference playoff race.

Duncan Robinson added 22 points and Bam Adebayo had 20 for Miami, which increased its lead over Boston to two games for sixth place in the standings. The Heat (37-31) have the same record as fifth-place Atlanta, but the Hawks own the head-to-head tiebreaker.

It is the first of two straight games between Miami and Boston. They will meet for the final time during the regular

season Tuesday night.

Evan Fournier scored 30 points for Boston.

Mavericks 124, Cavaliers 97

In Cleveland, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 25 points and Josh Richardson had 20, allowing playoff-bound Dallas to overcome the ejection of Luka Doncic to beat Cleveland.

Doncic received a flagrant-two foul—an automatic ejection—early in the third quarter for hitting Collin Sexton with "an aggressive strike to the groin area," according to lead official David Guthrie. It occurred while jostling for position under the Cleveland basket.

Dallas extended its lead to a game over Portland in the battle for fifth place in the Western Conference. The Lakers entered the night two games behind the Mavericks in seventh, which would make them the top seed in the play-in tournament.

Doncic finished with 15 points in 22 minutes.

Sexton scored 24 points for the Cavaliers. They lost their 10th straight game—matching their longest skid of the season—and have not won since April 21 against Chicago.

Pelicans 112, Hornets 110

In Charlotte, N.C., Eric Bledsoe had 24 points and 11 assists, Jaxson Hayes added 18 points and short-handed New Orleans rallied to beat Charlotte to stay alive in the race

New York Knicks guard Derrick Rose (4) scores past Los Angeles Clippers forward Marcus Morris Sr. (8) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, May 9, 2021, in Los Angeles.

for the play-in tournament.

James Johnson added 17 points and Willy Hernangomez had 16 rebounds for the Pelicans. They pulled within 1 1/2 games of San Antonio for 10th place in the Western Conference.

Terry Rozier scored a career-high 43 points on 16-of-26 shooting including seven 3-pointers, but it wasn't enough as Charlotte failed to clinch a spot in the Eastern Conference play-in tournament.

Timberwolves 128, Magic 96

In Orlando, Fla., Karl-Anthony Towns and D'Angelo Russell each scored 27 points and Minnesota built a 30-point halftime lead, led by 43 in the third quarter and cruised past Orlando.

Rookie guard Anthony Edwards added 16 points and 10 rebounds for his third double-double of the season to help the Timberwolves end a three-game losing streak. Ricky Rubio added 18 points.

Orlando dressed just 10 players, but only after signing former G League player Donta Hall for the rest of the season. R.J. Hampton scored a career-high 19 points.

Bulls 108, Pistons 94

In Detroit, Nikola Vucevic had 29 points and 16 rebounds and Chicago beat Detroit to keep its play-in chances alive.

Zach LaVine scored 30 points to help the Bulls move within 2 1/2 games of Indiana for the last Eastern Conference play-in spot. Chicago had lost five of six.

Detroit, which lost for the ninth time in 11 games, played without leading scorer Jerami Grant (knee) and point guard Cory Joseph (ankle). Rookies K Killian Hayes led Detroit with 21 points.

Kings 126, Thunder 98

In Sacramento, Calif., Maurice Harkless and Terence Davis each scored 18 points and Sacramento beat Oklahoma City to move within 2 1/2 games of San Antonio for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Delon Wright had 15 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and Richaun Holmes also had 15 points.

Darius Bazley scored 18 points for Oklahoma City. They Thunder have lost seven straight and 21 of 22.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA fines Pelicans' Griffin \$50,000 for Zion comments

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA fined New Orleans Pelicans executive David Griffin \$50,000 on Sunday for publicly criticizing officiating over how star Zion Williamson is handled and making comments the league considered detrimental. The decision came two days after Griffin, the Pelicans' executive vice president of basketball operations, spoke out strongly about his concerns on the amount of contact NBA referees allow Williamson to endure. Williamson is currently out indefinitely with a broken left index finger, an injury that occurred on a play where he did not appear to be fouled. Griffin said the Pelicans have told league officials many times that they feared Williamson was being exposed to injury because of the way defenders are allowed to play against the 6-foot-7, 284-pound forward. "He's injured now because of the open season there's been on Zion Williamson in the paint," Griffin

said Friday. "He's been absolutely mauled in the paint on a regular basis." Williamson is averaging 27.0 points and 7.2 rebounds per game this season. The Pelicans began Sunday two games behind San Antonio for 10th place and the final play-in tournament berth in the Western Conference.

Bradley Beal to miss Wizards' game Monday at Atlanta

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bradley Beal will miss the Washington Wizards' game Monday night at Atlanta because of a strained left hamstring. The Wizards listed Beal as out on their injury report Sunday, a day after he scored 50 points in a 133-132 overtime victory in Indiana. He's averaging 31.4 points—0.5 behind Golden State's Stephen Curry for the NBA lead. Beal has scored at least 25 points in 71 of his last 82 games and has eight games this season with 40 or more points. The Wizards are ninth in the Eastern Conference as they fight for a play-in spot in the playoffs.

Arenado, Wainwright lead Cardinals over Rockies 2-0



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—Nolan Arenado homered against his former team, Adam Wainwright pitched three-hit ball into the ninth inning and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies 2-0 on Sunday.

Yadier Molina hit an RBI double and Ryan Helsley got Josh Fuentes to ground into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded for his second career save and first this season. St. Louis completed a three-game sweep and has won nine of 11 overall.

Colorado dropped to a major league-worst 2-14 on the road.

Wainwright (2-3) struck out five and walked three over 8 1/3 innings, improving to 11-1 against the Rockies.

Arenado homered leading off the second against German Marquez (1-4), who allowed two runs—one earned—in six innings. St. Louis improved to 14-4 since April 23, the best record in the majors during that span.

Yankees 3, Nationals 2

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton hit a game-ending single off Brad Hand in the ninth inning, and New York beat Washington for its second straight walk-off win over the Nationals.

Hand (2-1) walked Tyler Wade and pinch-hitter Aaron Judge starting the ninth, a day after walking his first batter and blowing ninth- and 10th-inning leads in a game the Yankees won 4-3 in 11 innings.

One out later, Stanton lined a slider into left field for his 24th RBI this season and just the fifth hit of the game for the Yankees. New York went 7-2 on its longest homestand of the year, improving to 18-16.

Michael King, Wandy Peralta and Aroldis Chapman (2-0) combined for 2 2/3 innings of scoreless relief. King got four outs to remain unscored upon in 12 1/3 innings this season.

Mets 4, Diamondbacks 2

In New York, two-time Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom was pulled after five innings with right side tightness in his return from an injury to a similar area, and New York won its fifth in row.

DeGrom (3-2) was perfect through four innings but labored in the fifth, then called for the trainer after throwing two warmup pitches ahead of the sixth. He was scheduled for an MRI.

The right-hander was coming off a 10-day layoff, skipping his previous turn in the rotation because of a right lat issue. Prior to Sunday, deGrom had a 0.51 ERA and 59 strikeouts in 35 overpowering innings.



Edwin Diaz got five outs for his fifth save.

Arizona has lost six in a row. Rookie right-hander Riley Smith (1-2) allowed two runs in four innings.

Angels 2, Dodgers 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Jared Walsh hit a two-run double in the third inning and the Los Angeles Angels held off the slumping Dodgers.

After the Dodgers struck first in the third on Chris Taylor's two-out RBI single, the Angels responded in the home half when Walsh lined a bases-loaded, ground-rule double off Trevor Bauer (3-2).

The Dodgers were held to three hits but had plenty of baserunners after drawing nine walks from six Angels pitchers. The defending World Series champions left 12 on base and were 1 for 11 with runners in scoring position.

The Dodgers put runners on first and second in the ninth, but Raisel Iglesias retired Justin Turner and Will Smith for his fifth save.

Aaron Slegers (2-0) worked 1 1/3 hitless innings in relief and the Angels took two of three in the Freeway Series.

The Dodgers have dropped five straight series and split one after taking two of three from San Diego from April 16-18. They started the season 13-3 but find themselves just 18-17 after dropping 14 of 19.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Rafael Devers and Hunter Renfroe homered,

Nick Pivetta won his third consecutive start and Boston improved to 6-0 at Camden Yards this season.

The Red Sox have won five of six and own the best record in the majors at 22-13. During last year's pandemic-shortened season, they were 24-36.

Pivetta (5-0) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings and is now 7-0 since being traded from Philadelphia to Boston last August. Matt Barnes earned his eighth save in as many tries with a perfect ninth.

Dean Kremer (0-3) gave up three runs in five-plus innings for Baltimore and has not won in nine starts since beating the Yankees in his major league debut last Sept. 6.

Rays 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., Willy Adames hit a three-run homer in the fifth, Mike Brosseau added a tiebreaking drive the following inning and Tampa Bay held off Oakland to avoid a series sweep.

The A's squandered a chance in the eighth when Matt Olson hesitated on Andrew Kittredge's passed ball and was thrown out at third by catcher Mike Zunino.

Jeffrey Springs (3-1) struck out two in the fifth to earn the win. Kittredge got five outs for his second save.

Athletics lefty Cole Irvin (3-4) couldn't hold a 3-0 lead. He allowed four runs — three earned — in six innings.

Brewers 6, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Tyler Anderson

pitched eight solid innings and Pittsburgh held on in the ninth to end Chicago's five-game winning streak.

Wilmer Difo had three hits and drove in three runs as the Pirates won for just the third time in their last 20 games at Wrigley Field.

Held to two runs and four hits by Anderson (3-3), the Cubs scored three times in the ninth. Richard Rodriguez retired pinch-hitter Javier Báez on a grounder to end it with a runner on second for his sixth save.

Kyle Hendricks (2-4) allowed six runs—four earned—and nine hits in five innings.

Padres 11, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Jake Cronenworth hit a splash shot, Fernando Tatis Jr. also connected off Johnny Cueto and San Diego roughed up San Francisco.

Padres starter Chris Paddack pitched three innings and left with a 5-0 lead. Ryan Weathers (2-1) followed with three more shutout innings.

Cueto (2-1) hadn't pitched since April 14, when he strained his left lat.

Brewers 2, Marlins 1, 10 innings

In Miami, Tyrone Taylor hit a two-out, tiebreaking single in the 10th inning and seven Milwaukee pitchers combined on a six-hitter.

Miami reliever Anthony Bass (1-3) retired the first two batters in the 10th, but after an intentional walk, Taylor's hit

brought home automatic runner Pablo Reyes from second.

Josh Hader (3-0) pitched a perfect ninth with two strikeouts, lowering his ERA to 0.71. Drew Rasmussen worked the 10th and earned his first career save.

Astros 7, Blue Jays 4

In Houston, Kyle Tucker hit a three-run homer and tied a career high with four RBIs as Houston built a big lead early against Toronto.

Jose Altuve added a solo homer for the Astros to help them win two of three in the series. Tucker's homer highlighted a four-run fourth inning that extended the lead to 7-0.

Bryan Abreu (2-1) won in relief of Zack Greinke. Ryan Pressly struck out two in the ninth for his sixth save.

Blue Jays rookie Nate Pearson (0-1) was done in by a career-high five walks in his first start this season and the fifth of his career. The organization's top prospect, Pearson gave up three runs in 2 1/3 innings.

Rowdy Tellez homered and Bo Bichette had a two-run double for Toronto.

Rangers 10, Mariners 2

In Arlington, Texas, Adolis Garcia hit his team-leading ninth homer and drove in a career-high five runs, Dane Dunning (2-2) struck out 10 in five innings and Texas beat Seattle.

The past seven victories for the Rangers have come after falling behind, this time when they answered Seat-

AP
St. Louis Cardinals' Nolan Arenado celebrates after hitting a solo home run during the second inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies Sunday, May 9, 2021, in St. Louis.

tle's two-run fifth for a 2-1 lead with six runs in the bottom of the inning.

Nick Solak had a tiebreaking, two-run double as the first six Texas hitters reached base, including Jose Trevino on shortstop J.P. Crawford's first error in 27 games, and third of the day for the Mariners.

Leadoff man Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three hits and scored three runs as Texas won its third consecutive series and improved to 7-2 since May 1 to get back to .500 for the first time since April 9.

Justus Sheffield (2-3) allowed seven runs—five earned—in five innings.

White Sox 9, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Yermir Mercedes and Jose Abreu each had three RBIs to help Chicago finish a three-game sweep, handing Kansas City its eighth consecutive loss.

The Royals went winless on their seven-game homestand. They opened it up 1 1/2 games in the AL Central but leave their friendly confines back 3 1/2 games. They were swept by the Indians earlier in the week.

The White Sox have beaten the Royals 10 straight times on the road.

Lucas Giolito (2-3) gave up one run and four hits in five innings. It was the first run allowed by a Chicago starter in five games as they have a 0.31 ERA in the last 29 1/3 innings.

The three runs by the Royals were the most the White Sox had given up in a week.

Mike Minor (2-2) gave up five earned runs in five innings.

Braves 6, Phillies 1

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman and Dansby Swanson homered, Huascar Ynoa won his fourth straight start and Atlanta beat Philadelphia.

Freeman, the reigning NL MVP who began the game 1 for 24 in May, hit his ninth homer, a solo shot, to make it 5-1 in the third as the Braves won their second straight game and fifth in the last six. Freeman finished 3 for 3 and reached base four times, raising his batting average 20 points to .217.

Aaron Nola (3-2) took the loss after allowing four runs and five hits in four innings.

Ynoa (4-1) gave up one run and four hits with six strikeouts in six innings. In his last four starts, the 22-year-old right-hander has a 1.11 ERA.

IOC's Thomas Bach cancels Japan trip because of virus cases

TOKYO (AP)—IOC President Thomas Bach has canceled a trip to Japan because of surging cases of COVID-19 in the country, the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee said Monday in a statement.

Bach was to visit Hiroshima next Monday and meet the torch relay and then probably travel to Tokyo.

Organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto said last week that the trip would be "tough" for Bach to make, which was interpreted in Japan as meaning it was canceled.

The trip was made impossible because of a state of emergency in Tokyo and other parts of the country that has been extended until May 31. The state of emergency was to have ended on Tuesday.

The statement said Bach's visit would be made "as soon as possible."

The postponement is an embarrassment to the IOC and local organizers with the Olympics opening in just over 10 weeks. Organizers and the IOC have repeatedly said the Olympics will not be canceled, and will be "safe and secure."

Japan has attributed 11,000 deaths to COVID-19, better than many countries, but poor for Asia. Variants of the virus are spreading with reports of public health



In this April 28, 2021, file photo, IOC President Thomas Bach, on a screen, waves to Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee President Seiko Hashimoto at the start of a five-party meeting of Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

be a discussion, which I think it is as of right now."

Other voices are also rising up against the Olympics. On Monday, the leader of Japan's main opposition party said it was not possible to safely hold the games.

"I think it is possible that the measures our nation takes to protect human life and livelihoods simply will not make it possible to hold the Olympics," said Yukio Edano, head of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. "In that situation, the IOC and Tokyo city government will have to make a decision, and the government will back that."

Also on Monday, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported that Hyogo prefecture will take the torch relay off public streets. This would be at least the fifth time the torch has been rerouted. The relay began March 25 in northeastern Japan.



systems coming under pressure.

Public sentiment in Japan continues to run against holding the Olympics in the middle of a pandemic. Between 60-80% of Japanese people in polls have said the Olympics should be canceled or postponed.

An online petition calling

for the games to be canceled gained 300,000 signatures in three days, although a small protest against the Olympics on Sunday in Tokyo drew only 100 people.

Naomi Osaka, who will represent Japan at the Olympics,

said she has mixed feelings.

"Of course I would say I want the Olympics to happen, because I'm an athlete and that's sort of what I've been waiting for my entire life," she said Sunday at the Italian Open.

"But I think that there's so

much important stuff going on, and especially the past year," Osaka added. "I think a lot of unexpected things have happened and if it's putting people at risk, and if it's making people very uncomfortable, then it definitely should

NMI athletes need Oleai track facility for Mini Games training



The Northern Marianas Sports Association and Northern Marianas

Athletics are appealing to the public to give way to national athletes who are utilizing the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility to prepare for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

The quadrennial competition will be held on Saipan from June 17 to 25 next year and NMI athletes who will be joining athletics (running, throwing, and jumping) events in the Mini Games will need to catch up with training. The islands' athletes were unable to use the facility on a regular basis last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and they just started reporting for training session early this year.

"As we prepare for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, we must ensure that our athletes have enough time and appropriate venues for their training sessions. Let's support our athletes as they will represent us in next year's Pacific Mini Games and will put in the necessary work so they can deliver the best possible performance for the CNMI," NMSA executive director Carline Sablan said.

NMSA and NMA are appealing to rugby and frisbee teams utilizing the field at the

track oval to look for alternative venues for their games and practices, temporarily. Joggers and runners may still use the oval, but may only use the outermost lane or Lane 8 of the track during training sessions

Safety measures

NMA reminds track and field facility users not to leave their children unattended for everyone's safety.

Strollers, bikes, hoverboards, skateboards, and pets are prohibited at the track as they will damage the rubberized surface of the facility and may also cause accidents. Additionally, hydration bottles, containers, and trash must be properly disposed in trash receptacles.

Closed to public this weekend

The Oleai track and field fa-

cility will be closed to the public this Friday and Saturday for the 2020-2021 Public School System-McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

"NMSA calls for the public's understanding and cooperation, as we provide CNMI students the opportunity to showcase their athletics skills, practice teamwork, and represent their schools," Sablan said. (PR)



MARK RABAGO

The Oleai track and field facility will be closed to the public this Friday and Saturday for the 2020-2021 Public School System-McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

BSS

From Page 20

Danny Cheng of ACS with a distance of 4:06m. Rota's Tyron Pinaula made the Top 3 with a distance of 3:22m.

Camacho edged out foes in the 100m race with a time of 14:02, followed by silver medal winner Chris Sablan from William S. Reyes Elementary School who recorded a time of 15:44. Coming in at third and winning the bronze medal was

Pudney who submitted a time of 15:69.

For the 60m event, Camacho finished at 8:76 to gain yet another gold medal. Prudencio Manglona lagged behind but managed to steal second with a time of 10:19, closely followed by Tinian's Jerdon Cruz who finished at 10:44.

On top of sweeping all the events in the 12U category, BSS also dominated the relay portions of the championship events.

PANGELINAN

From Page 20

For the last four races, Pangelinan and Nanako have been alternating the pole position.

In the series race back in January, Pangelinan took the lead with 47 points with Nanako following closely with 45 points.

Later, Nanako got back the lead in the February race after gaining 47 points, bringing her total up to 92 with Pangelinan also holding a total score of 92.

In the March race, Nanako held the lead after gaining 47 points to bring her total up to 139. However, Pangelinan kept a close tail on Nanako, gaining 42 points to bring her total up to 134.

Meanwhile, in the Novice class Kier Agda continues to

lead after gaining a total of 45 points during the April series race, bringing his total score up to 181. Agda placed third in the first heat to earn 20 points but redeemed himself in the second heat, winning first to gain 25 points.

Coming in at second is Henry Camacho Jr. who earned 44 points last April to bump his overall score up to 163. Camacho placed second in both heats for 22 points each.

Rounding up the Top 3 last April is class No. 3 Corry Pangelinan who earned 37 points overall during the fourth leg of the race to bump his overall score to 146. Pangelinan placed first in the first heat for 25 points before losing the lead in the second heat and placing seventh for 12 points.



Knicks beat Clippers
106-100 behind
Rose and Bullock

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

NMI athletes need
Oleai track facility for
Mini Games training

PAGE 19



20 TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

BSS 12U boys dominate track meet

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Brilliant Star School dominated the boys division of the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Elementary Championships that concluded last Saturday.

BSS was named this year's team champion for the boys 12U category with an overall score of 136 followed by Saipan International School who placed second with a score of 100. Making the Top 3 in the

boys division was Tinian Elementary School with an overall score of 88 points.

Moshe Sikkell and Aiden Camacho led BSS to victory after each conquering four events out of the eight events



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Moshe Sikkell dominated four of eight events in the 12U boys division of the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Elementary Championships that concluded last Saturday.



JOSEPH CHIN

Billie Pangelinan took the lead in the Power Puff class of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race held every month at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

Pangelinan, Nanako continue to vie for lead

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The seesaw fight for the lead between Billie Pangelinan and Celis Nanako continued during the fourth series of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race held every month at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

After a tug-of-war for the lead in the Power Puff class for the last three series races, Pangelinan pulled the rug from under Nanako, again, in the fourth leg last April 25 after taking second place in the first heat to earn 22 points, and first in the second heat to gain 25 points. Pangelinan earned a total of



47 points after topping the April race bringing her total score to 181.

Nanako placed third in the fourth series race after placing fifth in the first heat to earn 16 points, and second in the second heat to gain 22 points. She placed third overall with a score of 38, bringing her overall score up to 177 putting her just below Pangelinan.

Landing second place in the fourth leg of the series was Shaniah Alvarez who placed third in both heats to gain a total of 40 points. She remains No. 3 in the class with a total of 155 points.

See PANGELINAN on Page 19

they competed in the 12U championships.

Sikkell topped the boys 1,500m event, the 800m event, the 400m event, the 200m event, while Camacho topped the softball throw, the long jump, the 100m event, and the 60m event.

In the 1,500m event, Sikkell recorded a time of 6:25 gaining him the gold medal followed by Danny Cheng of Agape Christian School who submitted a time of 6:37 to take home the silver medal. Rounding up the Top 3 for the event was SIS' Finn Altizer who finished at 6:49.

For the 800m, Sikkell prevailed with a time of 2:51 to bring home the gold, followed by Cheng at 3:01 landing him another silver medal. SIS' Landon Pudney made the Top 3 with a time of 3:28 gaining him the bronze medal.

For the 400m race, Sikkell completed the course in just 1:04 followed closely by Cheng at 1:15. Sikkell's schoolmate Akeen Edvalson completed the Top 3 with a time of 1:25 earning him the bronze medal.

Sikkell finished significantly faster than his opponent in

the 200m course with a time of 28:37, about four minutes faster than runner-up Pudney who came in at 32:16, gaining him a silver medal. Taking home the bronze was Tinian's Jerdon Cruz who finished with a time of 34:11.

Meanwhile, Camacho dominated the softball throw with a distance of 40.45m to gain him the gold medal. Coming in at second was Sherman

Camacho of Oleai Elementary School with a distance of 39m. The bronze medal for the event was awarded to Kaykoa Hocog from Rota Elementary School who finished with a distance of 36.5m.

In the long jump, Camacho finished with a distance of 4:08m to be awarded the gold, but he was closely tailed by

See BSS on Page 19

NMIBL gears up for 3x3 tournament

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The newly reorganized Northern Marianas International Basketball League is gearing up for their upcoming 3x3 Basketball Tournament that is expected to be the continuation of the Battle of the NORF 3-on-3 basketball tournament that concluded in April.

According to Clint Albert, the tournament organizer and NMIBL board member, the plan is to launch the tournament for June 5 and 6 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with a target of 16 teams for the men's open division, four teams for the women's open, and four teams each for 16U girls and 16U boys division.

Albert said this week is the

deadline for all lineup submissions so interested teams should submit those as soon as possible.

The organizer said that following the Battle of the NORF, NMIBL is getting a lot of interest and many have already signed up.

"We have about 70% for the open age men's and half way full for the other brackets, but, it's still first come first serve in terms of who submits all requirements," he said.

According to the NMIBL website, one of the requirements is a \$65 entrance fee. Slots will not be reserved unless the fee is paid.

Each team will have a guaranteed three games each and top teams will go to the playoffs and finals.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brilliant Star School dominated the 12U boys division of the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Elementary Championships that concluded last Saturday.